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Great Britain.

LONDON, JANUARY 30—31, 1882.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Dear money, long a stranger to our markets, has now visited them in circumstances which render it in a double sense unwelcome; for, while the visitation has not been the result of faults or blunders of home growth, the prejudicial effects will fall mainly upon home interests and industries just struggling into healthier life from a long period of depression. On Monday morning the Bank of England advanced its rate of discount from five per cent. to six—a figure which has not been seen in operation for more than three years—that is, since the period of gloom and distrust which followed the suspension of the City of Glasgow Bank. The mere fact that this alteration was resolved upon without awaiting until the customary day of meeting for the full Bank Court—that is, Thursday next—is the first point which calls for notice as distinguishing the present from many similar movements. On Thursday last, when the Paris Bourse panic had already attained vast proportions, when France was beginning to draw gold rapidly from England, and the value of money here was rising, the Bank directors met and deliberated, but thought it unnecessary to make any change. Twenty-four hours afterwards a movement became likely, and forty-eight hours afterwards it was seen to be inevitable. The circumstances illustrate vividly the delicate character of the new conditions under which the world of finance and of the trade which it inspires with life carries on its huge and far-reaching operations. The modern developments of practical science which have made communication between all civilised countries a matter of minutes rather than hours or days have at the same time almost identified the money markets of two countries closely situated, as are England and France; so that one cannot prosper without the other benefiting, and crisis or trouble in Paris is transmitted to London instantaneously. Facilities of intercourse have multiplied financial transactions to a marvellous extent, and of these pure speculation furnishes a formidable proportion, the consequence of which is that not only is the credit of both markets mutually involved to an extent unheard of before, but many of the points of contact arise from business of a hazardous character. Thus, when eight days since the collapse of indiscriminate gambling fell on all the French Bourses like a "bolt from the blue," the shock was transmitted to London at once, and the English money market, although it had no immediate connection with the particular fields of speculation in which French hunters after fortune had run riot, had yet so many interests in common that neutrality in either sentiment or action was out of the question. But the crisis in France, although it came suddenly, developed at first slowly, as the prompt combination of the great Paris capitalists bade fair to avert the worst consequences. On Wednesday last it is possible that the heads of "high finance" there believed the worst to be over, and that their optimism influenced the deliberation in the Bank par-lour. If so, the feeling and the policy were of brief duration. By Thursday evening it became apparent that large supplies of gold must be drawn from England to replenish French coffers against contingencies difficult to measure. Orders came hither, were repeated, and quickly came, for gold, more gold, gold at any cost, any sacrifice of securities, any pledging of credit still undoubted. In the three days the precious metal, to the value of about six hundred and fifty thousand pounds, left the Bank for Paris, and the discount rate was raised, with the twofold object of checking the outflow and bidding for supplies from other sources. Yet even that was not enough to arrest the current, for almost a million ran out on Monday, and the cry is still it flows. It will be seen at a glance that the circumstances attending the present rise in the Bank rate are totally different from those which accompanied and followed the stoppage of the City of Glasgow Bank. Holders of money then raised their terms because they preferred to lend as little as possible and to keep their resources in their own hands. In the present case we have parted with resources to a large extent, and must not merely husband what remains, but, if possible, replenish the void. On the other hand, it must not be supposed that the present remittances to France represent a loss to England, although in some degree it is the discharge of a long-standing liability. England is laid under contribution to enable French traders and bankers to use cash where credit has become unavailable, and this market has felt the strain—first, because it is nearest, has had some French money deposited for employment here, and is most closely interwoven in all its arrangements with that of Paris. But other financial centres feel the influence more remotely. Even New York must send over gold to help to relieve the pressure. Future historians will learn from his lordship's paper that the Liberals would have kept the franchise at pretty much the same level at which it stood when Lord Palmerston died; and it is from that period that the decadence of the House of Commons dates. But the Tories did what no Radical Government would have been foolish

tating and complicated enough to endanger the smooth working of the financial machinery. The effect upon purely English interests of the sudden advent of dear money is of course adverse. Trade was beginning to revive, and there was every prospect of the improvement continuing, for it was based upon the double security of good credit and the wants of the consuming world as indicated by open and profitable markets. It can hardly be otherwise than that trade and enterprise just beginning timidly and tentatively to throw out fresh shoots should feel the blighting effects of a change which not only will strain private credit in many cases severely, but will also load with additional expense every commercial transaction where discount is required. At the same time, the dissimilarity between the present situation and that of three years since extends farther than the mere fact that the crisis of 1878 affected internal credit only, while the existing one is due to an outflow of bullion to help our neighbours over a difficulty which we hope and believe to be transient. The three years have added sensibly to the country's wealth, have re-established credit, so that rarely has trade been, as the phrase is, sounder than now, and have enabled it to shake off much of the dangerous apathy which was creeping upon it in the early months of 1879. If now trade should be a little checked, and enterprise of many descriptions have to wait for a more propitious season to develop itself, the worst to be said is that a condition of advance is for the time retarded, and the gains thus postponed may all be realised a little later, to whatever height the Bank rate may rise now, and however quickly the fabric of French speculative finance may dissolve like a mocking mirage. As to the duration of the crisis in Paris and the next stages of the consequent movements in the money market, either there or here, it is useless to venture upon predictions. The situation changes from hour to hour, so that it is alike futile to assume that the severest pressure is now past or that it will go on and become intenser as the Bourse liquidation approaches. Generally speaking, the position can be regarded here with equanimity, since the business world is not over-loaded with financial engagements, far less wading up to the neck in a muddy torrent of choking liabilities which threaten to engulf it. That in France great anxiety should prevail was to be expected, but it is obvious that the more comprehensive the preparations made to face the work of the next few days, the less likely are they to be insufficient. The French are accumulating ample reserves against the day of reckoning, and they have been too rudely awakened from optimist dreams not to be keenly alive to the extent of the precautions needed. It is likely enough, therefore, that when the arrangements of which the billion remittances from this side form part are completed, financial Paris will be richer than it thought, and may be able to return something of what it has taken away when quite satisfied that it will be longer wanted.—*St. James's Gazette.*

enough to do; and in establishing household suffrage they did all the mischief. The constituents became indefinitely degraded, and a rowdy House of Commons is the natural consequence. It is the Conservatives who have taught the voter "the false and dangerous lesson" that it is by numbers and force, and not by reason and calm reflection, that the affairs of great communities are to be managed.

The Tory lowering of the franchise [the Radicals would never have lowered it] is the apotheosis of brute force. Once accustomed to find things carried by force instead of by reason, the step becomes a very short one to apply merely mechanical hindrances in order to arrest the progress of unwelcome legislation." Hence these tears. And now therefore what is the plain duty of the Conservatives? Plainly, to assist the Government in remedying the evil they and they alone are responsible for. They are bound by every consideration of honour to help in muzzling this vulgar and degraded House of Commons, the natural and fit representatives of the electorate they called into being. The only way of dealing with both evils is by a severe application of the *clercure* in the Lower House. It is impossible to gag the electorate; but it is not impossible to gag persons by whom it is represented in the Legislature: and if the Conservatives have any sense of shame, or any right feeling of remorse, they will give the Government such powers as will enable the first Minister of the Crown to silence the one at discretion, and so put some check upon the political brutalities of the other. This is the upshot of Lord Sherbrooke's argument, and he puts it forth in language as plain as that in which we have epitomized it. What it comes to we need not point out. Lord Sherbrooke thinks that the whole parliamentary system, root and branch, in the country and in the Legislature alike, has fallen into such a violent, impracticable state of anarchy that it is time for the Government to take steps to bring it under control. The question now is as to the limits of our capacity for taking more stocks. London cannot go on for ever buying even at the lower levels of quotations that have been established; and when the limit is reached, what is to be the result? The present fearful amount of staying power in the City. The judgment has already passed on wicked Paris, and which has visited nearly all the other Bourses of Europe, has hitherto upset the equilibrium of London. London has displayed a marvellous capacity of absorbing the innumerable masses of foreign stocks which have been flung upon the market. It has been a city of refuge for Egyptians, Spanish, Turks, Russians, and all the oppressed or depressed among the bonds of foreign States. The question now is as to the limits of our capacity for taking more stocks. London cannot go on for ever buying even at the lower levels of quotations that have been established; and when the limit is reached, what is to be the result? The present fearful amount of staying power in the City. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, JAN. 31—FEB. 1, 1882.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

Mr. Robinson, of Brooklyn, has cause to reproach fate for having postponed his birth to too late an epoch. Thirty years ago, or even twenty, his denunciations of barbarous and perfidious Britain would have been entirely in order. At present they are received by the House of Representatives at Washington with derision and laughter. Eloquence overrides argument; it is animated by the anger of an audience; contempt and mockery are an atmosphere in which it cannot breathe. If the American people generally be surprised at all by the conduct the British Government has pursued towards Irish disorder, the wonder has been excited by the moderation and long-suffering. Irish politicians are not so popular in the United States for their method of dealing with domestic affairs that Irish grievances against England are likely to rouse any active sympathy. Americans know very well how they would have treated attacks upon the rights of property among themselves of the kind made across the ocean by organised Land Leaguers. There have been times in the history of the two countries when absence of love for the Irish element in the American nationality might have been supplied by the presence of dislike or jealousy against the United Kingdom. This is not such a period. Americans and Englishmen are so closely knit together by the sense of a kindred origin and kindred tendencies that the bond even stands the test of the reaction to be anticipated after the extraordinary emotion of universal compassion for the murdered President. The disapproval expressed by most American organs of opinion of Mr. Blaine's threats directly against Chili and indirectly against Great Britain is still more satisfactory evidence of the indisposition of the people to fabricate causes of international offence. Mr. Blaine, once Speaker of the House of Representatives, lately Secretary of State, twice a candidate for the Presidency, and a very possible President hereafter, is a different personage to Mr. Robinson. He, if any professional politician, might have been presumed able to feel the pulse of the national judgment. From his own account of the motives which prompted his amazing instructions to Mr. Commissioner Trescott, he appears to have perceived in the prostration of Peru before Chili an opportunity for a stroke of business in favour of American commerce. To accept his own apology for his Peruvian partisanship as justified by English partisanship on the side of Chili would be to do an injustice to his clearness of political vision. Nobody knows better than Mr. Blaine that Chilian successes are not due to English backing. Mr. Blaine has no sort of testimony to produce for his allegation that Peru feels the heavy hand of England upon her at every turn. 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THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The Alexandria correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Wednesday night:—

The situation is considered very unsatisfactory, and many regard it as positively unbearable. The Chamber of Deputies vehemently insist upon its demands, especially with reference to the voting of the Budget, and the chance of an arrangement or amiable compromise being agreed upon by the Chamber and the Ministry is considered to be hopeless. A deputation of the Chamber of Deputies is about to wait upon Cherif Pacha for the purpose of urging that the Ministry shall acquiesce in the conditions of the Chamber, or to retire from office. Indeed, I understand that the Chamber of Deputies, which is supported by the Army, has already fixed upon the new Ministry which it intends to appoint, and in which the present Minister of War and Marine will be President of the Council, and Araby Bey will become Minister of War and Marine. The other Ministers will be chosen, according to this Petrian project from the Opposition deputies of the Chamber. A striking comment upon the situation is afforded by the fact that Arabi Bey is continually sending orders to the Minister of Finance, who has no alternative but to obey them, however stupid or extravagant they may be. The so-called National Party, including the Chamber of Deputies and the Army, are determined, if they can, to seize and wield supreme executive power. The European colony here entertain but one opinion on the situation. It is that it would be little short of a national disaster if the British and French Controllers, who had been nominated by Lord Salisbury and M. Barthélémy St. Hilaire, were appointed, and Lord Salisbury in October and November, refused to Germany, to Austria, and to Italy any share in the control. So much for the creation of the joint control. In addressing you August 19, 1879, I pointed out that Lord Salisbury had virtually "taken the Government of Egypt into our hands and those of the French Republic," and that he had "reversed the cardinal principles of our Egyptian policy"—and for which, in the present form, Lord Salisbury is responsible. At the same time, from a consideration of the Egyptian point of view, the control has worked well. It has been officially reported to us by those best able to judge of its effects, that the control has brought about the "spread of education, the abolition of vexatious taxation, the establishment of the land tax on a just basis, and the limitation of forced labour." The material prosperity of Egypt is now extraordinary. (Hear, hear.) It is impossible to wonder at the ferment in Egypt. That country has long been ruled by despotic means. The word of the late Khedive was law. His son is a man of gentle habits, and of moderate ways. Of course there was danger in the change. A people suddenly emancipated from a tyranny which had kept them in ignorance was not likely at once to enter upon the path of orderly development. The present movement, however, appears to mean that the Egyptian people desire to see the institution of a Government of such a character as to make a return to arbitrary rule impossible. In that aspiration we can give them our support. It is to the interest of England that the country which lies across our highway to the British East should be governed by a well-constituted and honest Government, rather than by autocratic despots like Khedive Ismail and his friend, his successor might be our bitter enemy, whereas with a Government on a wider base it is easier to count. England and France occupy, however, a position towards Egypt which entitles them to give advice, and to expect that it shall be followed. To England and France it is due that the country has been relieved from arbitrary rule, and the pressure of the Controllers in the Councils of the Khedive is the only real safeguard against its eventual return. If the control is the safeguard of the Egyptians, it is also a guarantee to the Western Powers, and with guarantees they cannot be expected to dispense. If it is galling to the Egyptians to see certain administrations in their midst in foreign hands—such as the Railways, the Port of Alexandria, the Domains, and the Dairia Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for moneys spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the law of liquidation, will render those mortgage Administrations needless. But the pressure of the respective governments of England and France in these administrations is as necessary as the control of which they form a component part, and being there, it forms the rampart against confusion, and a co-operation with France deliberately created by our predecessors must be loyally maintained. (Hear, hear.)

THE HERZEGOVINA REVOLT.

The Ragusa correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* telegraphed from Zara (via Udine) as follows:—

Thirty-five men of the Wehr (Dalmatian) Regiment have deserted and gone over to the insurgents. The calling out of the Dalmatian Landwehr has been delayed or is already countermanded, as wholesale desertions are feared. The situation is becoming tragic. I have only too good reasons for stating that some young Dalmatian reservists now being called in have sworn to commit suicide if they are driven to fight against their Herzegovinian brothers. The employment of these regiments against their own同胞 they persistently regard as South Slavonian patriots is provoking an unusually bitter feeling throughout southern Austria. Meanwhile the Austrian Government is making an immense effort to crush the insurrection offhand. A contract has been signed with the Austrian Lloyd's Company for the transport of 30,000 men to south Dalmatian ports. Nine large steamers are continually employed, and 65,000 men will soon be ranged against the insurgents. Owing to a false alarm at Castelnuovo, Gen. Jovanovich, who had just arrived, fearing a general rising of the citizens, threatened to bombard the place from the fort above. Several schools in the Bocche have been converted into barracks.

SIR CHARLES DILKE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Firth addressed their constituents in the Chelsea Vestry Hall on Tuesday night, Mr. Napier Higgins, Q.C., in the chair. In the early part of the proceedings great disorder prevailed, and this culminated in a riotous attack by a body of persons who forced themselves into the hall and stormed the platform. The police, to the number of about 100, who had been on reserve, were then called in, and the disturbers of the meeting disappeared, no arrests having been made. The members then delivered their addresses. In the course of his speech Sir Charles Dilke said:—

I hold that in their dealings with questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone have shown a combination of patience and caution with judicious boldness, and have extricated this country, and Europe itself, from dangerous complications (cheers). In settling these frontier questions we have given Turkey breathing time, and have played the part of better friends to Turkey than were our predecessors. An excellent understanding exists between the Sultan and our Ambassador, which may be turned to the advantage both of the Sultan and of the suffering populations. The Turks will, as they promise, at length fairly face the facts of the present day, reform their Government in Armenia, apply the organic statute for reforms in the European provinces, and, by approving the nominations made by the Governor of East Roumelia, try

and secure the goodwill of the more advanced and enlightened section of the Bulgarian party, their Government will even now obtain a fresh lease of life. Mr. Goschen has stated that "no power still retains so much real influence at Constantinople as England." With so talented and so genial an Ambassador as Lord Dufferin to represent her Majesty at the Sultan's Court I cannot but continue to hope. Pressure by England for Turkish reforms is the evidence of our true friendship, for continued misgovernment cannot but lead to the complete destruction of the Empire. While Lord Salisbury has attached with regard to Greece and the Balkans, Lord Lytton admits that we have deserved the gratitude of those countries (and, I would add, of Turkey and of Europe) in removing thence the causes of disorder; but Lord Lytton finds—as he thinks—safer ground in Egypt. In Egypt Lord Lytton complains of "French initiative," which, it appears, Lord Granville has succeeded. Tory newspapers accuse us of truckling to France, of going into a foolish partnership, of keeping out the rightful owner—by whom they mean the Turk. But they forget their modern history. The joint action of England and France in Egypt is an invention for which we are not responsible—an invention of our predecessors. In the spring of 1876 Lord Derby refused, though asked by France and Egypt, to appoint a Controller; but in November of that year an Anglo-French control was decreed by the then Khedive, and in December Lord Derby, while again refusing to appoint, allowed an Englishman to accept the appointment of Controller. In 1878 Lord Salisbury agreed to the appointment of an English and a French Cabinet Minister, on the understanding that if either were dismissed without the consent of the English, the French Government in the case might be the control should revive. In 1879 the British sent Sir Rivers Wilson and his French colleague, the Khedive was then threatened by Lord Salisbury with deposition, and threatened by him in the names of England and France. The Khedive, refusing to obey Lord Salisbury's orders, was deposed. In July, 1879, the Sultan communicated to England and France a draft Firmān for Egypt. At the instance of France, who urged that its form constituted an attempt to re-establish the authority of the Sultan in Egypt, it was much altered, and was ultimately agreed to by France; the Porte offering to France a further explanation of the exact meaning of the Firmān. In August French and English Controllers, who had been nominated by Lord Salisbury and M. Barthélémy St. Hilaire, were appointed, and Lord Salisbury in October and November, refused to Germany, to Austria, and to Italy any share in the control. So much for the creation of the joint control. 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A people suddenly emancipated from a tyranny which had kept them in ignorance was not likely at once to enter upon the path of orderly development. The present movement, however, appears to mean that the Egyptian people desire to see the institution of a Government of such a character as to make a return to arbitrary rule impossible. In that aspiration we can give them our support. It is to the interest of England that the country which lies across our highway to the British East should be governed by a well-constituted and honest Government, rather than by autocratic despots like Khedive Ismail and his friend, his successor might be our bitter enemy, whereas with a Government on a wider base it is easier to count. England and France occupy, however, a position towards Egypt which entitles them to give advice, and to expect that it shall be followed. 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But the pressure of the respective governments of England and France in these administrations is as necessary as the control of which they form a component part, and being there, it forms the rampart against confusion, and a co-operation with France deliberately created by our predecessors must be loyally maintained. (Hear, hear.)

Coming to the subject of the French Treaty negotiations and Free Trade, the speaker said:—

In one matter of foreign affairs, I myself have been personally and busily engaged during the recess. The nature of such a negotiation as that on the proposed French Treaty makes it impossible that it should be carried on, except by men on whom a good deal of discretion, and even power, is conferred. Cobden complained that he was hampered by the Government in 1860. The present Royal Commission can make no such complaint. The powers conferred may be exercised, of course, in conformity with the general tendency of opinion. That opinion was on that occasion declared to us by two debaters in the House of Commons and by two speakers in the Board School-room, Cottenham, near Cambridge, on Tuesday night. Mr. Goodman moved: "That this meeting recognises how urgently the welfare and liberties of the British people have suffered from the operations of the national will; and further trusts that the House of Commons, for the guidance of its proceedings may be so modified as to make it an effective instrument of the national will; and further trusts its appreciation of the high services of Sir Henry Brand, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the pride it feels in him as representative of the county of Cambridge." Mr. Fordham seconded the proposition, which was carried with cheers.

Sir Henry Brand, who was received with applause, said the Speaker of the House of Commons, as the servant of the House, had to see that its rules were observed. Last session, however, the House of Commons called upon the Speaker to frame rules for the conduct of business. On that very day last session a memorable sitting of the House occurred, in the course of which it became his duty to close the debate by putting the question. He should not detain them by stating the reasons for the course which he took upon that occasion. Suffice it to say that he did his best to maintain the integrity of Parliament, and the government was at standstill, therefore he had no difficulty in doing what he thought his duty. What he did he did advisedly, and he should do the same again in like conditions, but he trusted such conditions would never recur. (Hear, hear.) On that occasion he stated to the House the reasons why he had taken that course, and he concluded that statement with these words, "Future measures for insuring orderly debate I must leave to the judgment of the House, but I may add that it will be necessary either for the House itself to assume more effectual control over its debates or to entrust greater authority to the Chair." (Hear, hear.) At that crisis it was not convenient to the House to assume more effectual control over its debates, and it adopted the other alternative, and conferred greater authority upon the Chair. At the next sitting of the House it conferred upon the Speaker unprecedented powers to regulate the conduct of business when the state of business was urgent, and under those powers he framed certain rules, but those rules had no operation except under a state of urgency, and when urgency terminated the rules ceased to be operative, and at present those rules have no vitality. He confessed to a parental fondness for those resolutions, and he intended to think that most of them might with great advantage to the House be made permanent. They were in three categories. Some of them might be made permanent as they stood, without alteration; some required amendment to suit the altered circumstances; others framed for a grave crisis might be set aside until such a crisis might again occur. He was persuaded of this, the matter might be left to the judgment of the House.

may be some result from the labours of the Commission. (Cheers.) Nothing, however, will induce us to put our hands to a Treaty of a retrograde character. (Cheers.) Whatever may be proposed in the direction of raising duties upon wines, we are hearing just now less than we were a few months ago of proposals for a complete change of front in our commercial policy. Pressure by England for Turkish reforms is the evidence of our true friendship, for continued misgovernment cannot but lead to the complete destruction of the Empire. While Lord Salisbury has attached with regard to Greece and the Balkans, Lord Lytton admits that we have deserved the gratitude of those countries (and, I would add, of Turkey and of Europe) in removing thence the causes of disorder; but Lord Lytton finds—as he thinks—safer ground in Egypt. In Egypt Lord Lytton complains of "French initiative," which, it appears, Lord Granville has succeeded. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, JAN. 31—FEB. 1, 1882.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

Mr. Robinson, of Brooklyn, has cause to reproach fate for having postponed his birth to too late an epoch. Thirty years ago, or even twenty, his denunciations of barbarous and perfidious Britain would have been entirely in order. At present they are received by the House of Representatives at Washington with derision and laughter. Eloquence overrides argument; it is animated by the anger of an audience; contempt and mockery are an atmosphere in which it cannot breathe. If the American people generally be surprised at all by the conduct of the British Government, it has pursued towards Irish disorder, the wonder has been excited by the moderation and long-suffering. Irish politicians are not so popular in the United States for their method of dealing with domestic affairs that Irish grievances against England are likely to rouse any active sympathy. Americans know very well how they would have treated attacks upon the rights of property among themselves of the kind made across the ocean by organised Land Leaguers. There have been times in the history of the two countries when absence of love for the Irish element in the American nationality might have been supplied by the presence of dislike or jealousy against the United Kingdom. This is not such a period. Americans and Englishmen are so closely knit together by the sense of a kindred origin and kindred tendencies that the bond even stands the test of the reaction to be anticipated after the extraordinary emotion of universal compassion for the murdered President. The disapproval expressed by most American organs of opinion of Mr. Blaine's threats directly against Chili and indirectly against Great Britain is still more satisfactory evidence of the indisposition of the people to fabricate causes of international offence. Mr. Blaine, once Speaker of the House of Representatives, lately Secretary of State, twice a candidate for the Presidency, and a very possible President hereafter, is a different personage to Mr. Robinson. He, if any professional politician, might have been presumed able to feel the pulse of the national judgment. From his own account of the motives which prompted his amazing instructions to Mr. Commissioner Trescott, he appears to have perceived in the prostration of Peru before Chili an opportunity for a stroke of business in favour of American commerce. To accept his own apology for his Peruvian partisanship as justified by English partisanship on the side of Chili would be to do an injustice to his clearness of political vision. Nobody knows better than Mr. Blaine that Chilian successes are not due to English backing. Mr. Blaine has no sort of testimony to produce for his allegation that Peru feels the heavy hand of England upon her at every turn. British shipbuilders manufacture ironclads for Peru as gladly as for Chili. So would American shipbuilders, if there were any competent for the undertaking. British trade has suffered, not gained, by the deplorable civil war which has desolated Peru. British traders and investors would be delighted by any pacification which should leave Peru able to follow the path of independent and vigorous progress. Mr. Blaine pays more honour to British diplomacy than Englishmen are prone to render when he envies and extols it as always bold, energetic, and vigilant in spreading the commercial power of England. He pays its ceaseless activity and dexterity more honour when out of office than he ever showed himself to entertain for it when he guided the policy of the United States at Washington. No statesman who had respected foreign statesmanship would ever have paused either the instructions to Mr. Trescott or the despatches to Lord Granville. Unfortunately for his own reputation, he committed the mistake of misapprehending, not merely the character of British statesmanship, but the temper of his own countrymen. The position of Great Britain is definite in these matters. Great Britain does not use her national power to push her commerce, as Mr. Blaine affects to believe. She seeks no political favour for her trade in South America or elsewhere. She does not calculate on possible political complications arising from the projected Panama Canal. If anything, she is more inclined to be careless of the future than to prepare warily for remote contingencies. In opposing an unargumentative negative to Mr. Blaine's recent summons to surrender an absolute patronage of the international relations of South and Central America, a to the Government at Washington, the British Foreign Office simply acted on the prosaic British method of following facts. Great Britain cannot pretend that she is not concerned in South and Central American affairs, when notoriously, both as the leading commercial Power of the world and as a great American Power, she has a most intimate concern in them. Mr. Blaine himself urges her excessive interest in them as his patriotic ground for endeavouring to introduce an American counterpoise. In negotiating, or trying to negotiate, with Lord Granville on the subject of the Isthmus, he asked Lord Granville to affirm the existence of a monopoly in the United States of an interest in them. No American monopoly exists; Lord Granville's reference of Mr. Blaine to the

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THE EGYPTIAN DIFFICULTY.

The Alexandria correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Wednesday night:

The situation is considered very unsatisfactory, and many regard it as positively unbearable. The Chamber of Deputies vehemently insist upon its demands, especially with reference to the voting of the Budget, and the chance of an arrangement or amiable compromise being agreed upon by the Chamber and the Ministry is considered to be hopeless. A deputation of the Chamber of Deputies is about to wait upon Cherif Pacha for the purpose of urging that the Ministry shall accede in the conditions of the Chamber, or to retire from office. Indeed, I understand that the Chamber of Deputies, which is supported by the Army, has already fixed upon the new Ministry which it intends to appoint, and in which the present Minister of War and Marine will become Minister of War and Marine. The other members will be chosen according to this Patriotic project, from the Opposition deputies of the Chamber. A striking comment upon the situation is afforded by the fact that Arabi Bey is continually sending orders to the Minister of Finance, who has no alternative but to obey them, however stupid or extravagant they may be. The so-called National Party, including the Chamber of Deputies and the Army, are determined, if they can, to seize and wield supreme executive power. The European colony here entertain but one opinion on the situation. It is that it would be little short of a national disaster if the British and French Governments accord the Chamber of Deputies the right to deal with the budget, as such a concession would be the first step to the revival of the old régime. If the control is also a guarantee to the Western Powers, and will guarantee them that they cannot be expected to dispense. It is galling to the Egyptians to see certain administrations in their midst in foreign hands—such as the railways, the Port of Alexandria, the Dommes, and the Daira Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for money spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the law of liquidation, will render those mortgage Administrations needless. But, for the present, the co-operation of England and France in these administrations is their mid in foreign hands—such as the railways, the Port of Alexandria, the Dommes, and the Daira Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for money spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the law of liquidation, will render those mortgage Administrations needless. But, for the present, the co-operation of England and France in these administrations is as necessary as the control of which they form a component part, and, being there, it forms a rampart against confusion, and a co-operation with France deliberately created by our predecessors must be loyally maintained. (Hear, hear.)

Coming to the subject of the French Treaty negotiations and Free Trade, the speaker said:

In one corner of foreign affairs, I myself have been personally busily engaged during the recess. The name of such a negotiation as that on the proposed French Treaty makes it impossible that it should be carried on, except by men on whom a good deal of discredit, and even power, is conferred. Cobden complained that he was followed by a body of persons who forced them into the hall and stormed the platform. The police, to the number of about 100, who had been on reserve, were then called in, and the disturbers of the meeting disappeared, no arrests having been made. The members then delivered their addresses. In the course of his speech Sir Charles Dilke said:

I hold that in their dealings with questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin Lord Granville and Mr. Gladstone have shown a combination of patience and caution with judicious boldness, and have extricated this country, and Europe generally, from dangerous complications. (Cheers.) In settling these frontier disputes we have given Turkey breathing-space, and have played the part of better friends to Turkey than did our predecessors.

An excellent understanding exists between the Sultan and our Ambassador, which may be turned to the advantage both of the Sultan and of the suffering populations. If the Turks will, as they promise, at length fairly face the facts of the present day, reform their Government in Armenia, apply the organic statute for reforms in the European provinces, and, by approving the nomi-

nations made by the Governor of East Roumelia, try and secure the goodwill of the more advanced and enlightened section of the Bulgarian people, their Government will even now obtain a fresh lease of life. Mr. Goschen has stated that "no Power still retains so much real influence at Constantinople as England." With so talented and so genial an Ambassador as Lord Dufferin to represent her Majesty at the Sultan's Court I cannot but continue to hope.

Pressure by England for Turkish reforms is the evidence of our true friendship, for a conciliatory government cannot but lead to the complete destruction of the Empire. While Lord Salisbury has attacked us all regard to Greece and Montenegro. In a letter dated January 1, he told them that they would find that we have deserved the gratitude of those countries (and, I would add, of Turkey and of Europe) in removing thence the causes of disorder; but Lord Lytton finds—as he thinks—safer ground in Egypt. In Egypt Lord Lytton complains of "French initiative," to which, it appears, Lord Granville has succumbed. Tory newspapers accuse us of truckling to France, of going into a foolish partnership, of keeping out the rightful owner—by whom they mean the Turk. But they forgot their modern history. The joint action of England and France in Egypt is an invention for which we are not responsible—an invention of our predecessors. In the spring of 1876 Lord Derby refused, though asked by France and Egypt, to appoint a Controller; but in November of that year an Anglo-French

control was decreed by the then Khedive, and in December Lord Derby, while again refusing to appoint, allowed an Englishman to accept the appointment of Controller. In 1878 Lord Beaconsfield agreed to the appointment of an English and French Cabinet Minister, on the understanding that the latter were dismissed without the consent of the English and the French Government, as the case might be, the control should revive. In 1879 the Khedive dismissed Sir Rivers Wilson and his French colleague. The Khedive was then threatened by Lord Salisbury with deposition, and threatened by him in the names of England and France. The Khedive, refusing to obey Lord Salisbury's orders, was deposed. In July, 1879, the Sultan communicated to England and France a draft Firmān for Egypt. At the instance of France, who urged that this firmān constituted an attempt to establish the authority of the Sultan in Egypt, it was much altered, and was ultimately agreed to by France; the Porte offered to France a further explanation of the exact meaning of the Firmān. In August French and English Controllers, who had been nominated by Lord Salisbury and M. Barthélémy St. Hilaire, were appointed, and Lord Salisbury in October and November, refused to Germany, to Austria, and to Italy any share in the control. So much for the creation of the joint control. In addressing you on August 19, 1879, I pointed out that Lord Salisbury had virtually taken the Government of Egypt into our hands and those of the French Republic, and that he had reversed the cardinal principles of our Egyptian policy—and for this, in its present form, Lord Salisbury is responsible. At the same time, from the economical and from the Egyptian point of view, the control has worked well. It has been officially reported to us by those best acquainted with the control that it has brought about the "spread of education, the abolition of vexatious taxation, the establishment of the land tax on a just basis, and the limitation of forced labour." The material prosperity of Egypt is now extraordinary. (Hear, hear.) It is impossible to wonder at the ferment in Egypt. That country has long been ruled by despotic means. The word of the late Khedive was law. His son is a man of gentle habits, and of moderate ways. Of course there was danger in the change. A people suddenly emancipated from a tyranny which had kept them in ignorance was not likely at once to enter upon the path of orderly development. The present movement, however, appears to mean that the Egyptian people desire to see the institution of a Government of such a character as to make a return to arbitrary rule impossible. In that aspiration we can give them our support. It is to the interest of England that the country which lies across our highway to the British East should be governed by well-grounded institutions rather than by autocrats. One despotic Khedive might be our friend, his successor might be our bitter enemy, whereas with a Government on a wider base it is easier to count. England and France occupy, however, a position towards Egypt which entitles them to give advice, and to expect that it shall be followed. To England and France it is due that the country has been relieved from arbitrary rule, and the pressure of the Controllers in the Councils of the Khedive is the only real safeguard against its eventual re-establishment. If the control is the safeguard of the Egyptian people, it is also a guarantee to the Western Powers, and will guarantee them that they cannot be expected to dispense. It is galling to the Egyptians to see certain administrations in their midst in foreign hands—such as the railways, the Port of Alexandria, the Dommes, and the Daira Sanieh—it must be remembered that their revenues are assigned in mortgage for money spent on Egypt, and that the redemption of that debt, which is progressing rapidly under the law of liquidation, will render those mortgage Administrations needless. But, for the present, the co-operation of England and France in these administrations is as necessary as the control of which they form a component part, and, being there, it forms a rampart against confusion, and a co-operation with France deliberately created by our predecessors must be loyally maintained. (Hear, hear.)

chief, but in particular desired to see a re-imposition of taxes upon corn, an idea which I thought that Lord Beaconsfield had crushed out among the ranks of his supporters. It is a mistake to suppose that, as these gentlemen assume, we are being excluded by increasing tariffs from foreign markets as a whole. In April, 1881, Lord Sandon moved for a return, which seemed to have been meant to show a general increase of duties and a decrease of imports. A portion of it had been issued, and on the whole it shows the trend of the policy of the House of Commons. The House should assume the power to close a debate. No freedom of speech was endangered if speech was endangered. The House should assume the power to close a debate. The freedom of speech was the breath of the life of the House of Commons. (Cheers.) But the House had not as yet signified its pleasure ad to the action of the Speaker should a similar crisis occur. It was said that freedom of speech was endangered if speech was endangered. The House should assume the power to close a debate. The freedom of speech was the breath of the life of the House of Commons. (Cheers.) Referring next to agricultural topics, the Speaker said the depression from which the land interest suffered was attributable mainly to the character of the seasons. No doubt they suffered from competition, but farmers did not complain of the present prices of agricultural produce. They complained, and it is thought, justly, that they were unduly taxed. He hoped the effect of the depression would be to ensure more regard for these grievances in Parliament. The owner of land had a grievance. He justly complained that the article which he possessed could not be transferred from hand to hand without excessive charges, which diminished its value. Those owners who had encumbered estates could not fairly go to Parliament and say, "Give us, who are not able owing to the state of the law to part with any portion of our estates, facilities for doing so, in order that we may better that which would remain." Then, again, the farmer was fully entitled to be able to say that he ought to be compensated for any improvement which, during the currency of his holding, he has carried out. He was also entitled to appeal to Parliament to place local taxation upon a more equitable basis. The labourer, it is said, had not had a grievance, that he had not the same political privileges which his brother householders had in the town. (Hear, hear.) He had had a slight expense of the agricultural labourer, and he was bound to say that he thought the agricultural labourer would make a valuable and safe addition to the electoral body of this country. (Cheers.)

THE SPEAKER ON THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

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Mr. Henry Brand, the Speaker, addressed a meeting of his constituents in the Board School-room, Cottenham, near Cambridge, on Tuesday night. Mr. Goodman moved:

"That this meeting recognises the necessity

in this, as it has been in certain other instances, to follow the example of some of our own Colonists, from whom we took the form of ballot which we have adopted here. No one

can seriously contend that we ought to be content to pass one important Bill a year by

the electors, should ask your representatives in your turn—"Wherein have you advanced the general work?" let us at least be able to

say that we have restored to you the working

Parliament in which since the thirteenth century your work has been done, having adopted

its form to the needs of the present day:

and, in so reviving the usefulness of Parliament we have given to your elective institutions a new life (cheers). It will be for you

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that the House of Commons, in its later days

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 2-3, 1882.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE UNION GÉNÉRALE.

The stoppage of the Union Générale, followed by the arrest of M. Bontoux, the president, and M. Féder, the manager of the company, has naturally directed attention to the proceedings of that remarkable association. Of M. Bontoux himself it is becoming to say little now that his conduct is subject to judicial investigation. It is difficult to believe that a company whose Board of Directors included members of some of the most distinguished families in France—the d'Harquets, the de Broglies, and others—should have consciously and deliberately lent itself to fraudulent transactions. But it is certain that the mania for wild speculation, from which no section of French society seems to have held aloof, has afforded opportunities for illicit transactions of which it is difficult to believe that no one has taken advantage. A financial crisis such as that which has occurred in Paris, though it spreads ruin far and wide, does not leave every one the poorer. There are always a few men cool-headed enough to take advantage of the general infatuation, and they are not always very scrupulous as to the choice of their methods. If they and their clients weather the storm, nothing is heard of their doings; but if a crash comes, there is a natural tendency to treat them as scapegoats. Of the nature of M. Bontoux's transactions, whether legitimate or illegitimate, we say nothing at present; but it is only just to notice the tribute paid on Thursday by M. Léon Say to the integrity of the Paris brokers. He had seen, he said, a thing which had not been witnessed for a century in the Paris money market. He had seen brokers taking measures amid a financial crisis without Government intervention for insuring that all their customers should be paid punctually at the settlement without knowing whether the debtors would be equally punctual. This upright conduct of the Paris brokers contrasts very favourably with the proposal of M. Andrieux, the deputy for Lyons, for a sort of temporary act of indemnity on behalf of the brokers of Lyons. No doubt the financial crisis at Lyons is even more serious than at Paris, and it may easily have very unfavourable effects on French commerce and industry. But the feeling of the Chamber was so strong against any proposal to relieve individuals from the consequences of what was stigmatized as gambling that M. Andrieux was interrupted in the reading of his proposition, and it was speedily disposed of by means of the 'previous question.'—Times.

The *Daily News* observes:—The Comte de Chambord is said to have been a devoted believer in M. Bontoux, and to be a heavy loser by him. A wild speculation in the shares of the Union Générale set in, and women as well as men are believed to have taken part in it. Indeed, there are stories told of aristocratic ladies hiring rooms in the business quarters of Paris, to be near their brokers and within reach of every scrap of intelligence that might affect the value of stocks. In the drawing-room and at the dinner-table, too, the talk of stocks and shares quite banished the unusual interchange of gallantry and the discussion of politics. It was thought that all that was necessary to make a fortune was to buy Union Générale shares, and the clerical and reactionary parties rushed wildly to buy. In consequence, the nominal £20 share, on which only £5 were paid, was rushed up at one time to £40, and stood for a long time at £122. From this last figure it dropped suddenly within a few weeks until the quotation now is entirely nominal. But, though the foolish and the inexperienced swallowed all the fine promises of M. Bontoux, experts were quite aware that a mushroom growth of this kind could not last. Accordingly some of the great operators in Paris began to sell the shares of the Union Générale, without, however, having them in their possession. They trusted that the knowledge that they themselves were selling would alarm the holders of the shares, and would lead to a heavy fall; or, in any case, they hoped that, if called upon to deliver the shares, they would be able to borrow or to buy them. They were disappointed, however, in both expectations. The followers of M. Bontoux stuck gallantly to their colours, and refused to be frightened by the action of the "bears" as the sellers in blank are called; while M. Bontoux on his part bought up all the shares that were offered. As it is illegal for a bank to buy its own shares, it was alleged that the Union Générale had lent money to its clients, and that they had given the order to M. Bontoux to buy. If this be so, of course the purchases can be justified, even though the purchasers themselves may not be able to repay the loans advanced to them. There may have been want of caution and much ill-judgment in making the loans; but of course every banker is liable to mistakes. It is asserted, however, that the orders from the clients referred to were in a large part mythical, and that, in reality, M. Bontoux was using the money of the bank to buy its own shares. This clearly is a very grave charge—that of using the deposits entrusted to the bank to buy its own shares; for now that the bank has failed

the depositors have in return for their money only the worthless shares to look to, which in reality are of no more value than blank paper. At the last meeting of the shareholders of the Union Générale M. Bontoux stated that the profits realised in all these ways were great enough to enable the shareholders to pay up the £15 still due on each of their shares. He recommended therefore that, instead of declaring a dividend, the profits should be applied to pay up the shares in full. This recommendation was adopted. The plan always seemed suspiciously absurd to judicious observers. If the alleged profits really were made, they were made, as we have said, chiefly from the money earned by promoting other companies, and partly also from the "cornering" operation, which could not often be repeated. They were therefore to a large extent accidental, and it would have been the proper course for the Directors to put to reserve by far the larger part of them, which would have enabled the bank to go on until gradually it obtained proper banking business. But if the object was to hide the fact that the money of the shareholders and depositors had been squandered away, it was a most clever device. The shareholders, finding their responsibility for fifteen pounds a share so easily wiped out, were not curious to inquire whether the money for doing so was in the bank or not. It is now asserted that since the failure of the bank an investigation has been made, and instead of the large profits represented to have been realised by M. Bontoux, there is a deficit of nearly four millions sterling. Much depends of course upon what is meant by the word "deficit." If it means alone that the profits represented to have been made are not forthcoming and cannot be accounted for, the matter affects the shareholders chiefly. But if it means that the capital of the bank has gone, and part also of the deposits, it becomes a very serious matter. Then M. Bontoux would in fact be accused of having represented that the bank had made large profits when in reality it was utterly bankrupt; and he would also be accused of employing the deposits entrusted to his care in buying the shares of this bankrupt concern. As yet the information before us does not enable us to say which is the interpretation to be put upon this alleged deficit in the funds of the Union Générale.

The *Standard* says:—It is perfectly certain that since the collapse of the Crédit Mobilier no such disastrous financial failure as this has affected France. The prospects of a favourable liquidation are certainly not bright. Still, the depositors appear to be safe, and the loss will fall mainly on the Directors and those Shareholders who bought in when the Stock was at an inflated price. The latter may be dismissed, as most of them are likely to prove men of straw. But the Directorate is composed of people of wealth and position—we might almost say of the pink of Orthodoxy and the flower of Legitimacy. The list which our Correspondent furnishes reads like the roll call of the *ancienne noblesse*, who, only ten years ago, seemed in a fair way to rule France under that "*roy*" whom rumour asserts to have shared in their disaster to the extent of five millions of francs. The Duke of Edinburgh paid a brief visit to Liverpool on Thursday, in his official capacity as Admiral-Superintendent of Naval Reserves. His Royal Highness arrived on Wednesday night in the steam yacht *Lively* from the Isle of Man, and inspected her Majesty's ship *Defence*, the guard-ship in the Mersey, on Thursday morning. In the afternoon the Duke landed from the *Lively* and drove in a private carriage to her Majesty's ship *Eagle*, Commander M'Neile, in the King's Dock, where he inspected the Naval Reserves. His Royal Highness, who was accompanied by Mr. Richards, R.N., paymaster, informed Lieutenant R. C. Lambert, commanding officer of the Royal Artillery Volunteers, that he would be unable to inspect that corps in the evening, having to leave for Belfast. The Duke of Edinburgh having rejoined the *Lively*, that vessel left the Mersey for Belfast, and will afterwards proceed to Dublin.

The Earl and Countess of Denbigh, with the Ladies Clare and Edith Fielding, have started for Rome, where they will remain till Easter.

The Earl and Countess of Leicester passed through London on Thursday from Latimer on their way to Holkham, Norfolk.

The Earl of Wilton, it is reported from Melton Mowbray, is recovering steadily, but is still unable to return to the saddle.

Earl Percy, M.P., arrived at his residence in Grosvenor-square on Thursday, from Alnwick Castle.

Intelligence received from Belvoir Castle on Thursday evening announces that Lord John Manners, who had been recovering from his recent illness, has had a relapse, and is again unable to leave his room. The Duke of Rutland is also confined to his room owing to an attack of bronchitis, but is progressing favourably. Lady Elizabeth Drummond, who has been very ill, is now nearly convalescent.

A marriage is arranged between the Hon. Patrick Greville-Nugent, fourth son of Lord Greville, of Clonyn, and Ermengarda, only daughter of the late Mr. Augustus Ozvile, of Cove, Dumfriesshire, N.B.

The Right Hon. G. Salter-Booth, M.P., and family have arrived at their residence in St. George's-square.

Sir Tollemache Sinclair, Bart., M.P., and Miss Sinclair have arrived at 62, Eaton-square.

The health of Sir Michael Costa continued to improve on Thursday.

PARIS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

contingencies—all paid out of colonial taxes, and the Governor pays no import duties. The people here would be ready to pay more, even as much as £8,000 or £10,000, to secure a really able man."

A correspondent in Servia, whose letter is dated January 22d, says:—"Here every one is on the tip-toe of expectation as to whether the Skupetchev, which was signed by the Prince-regard, will declare Serbia a kingdom. There are two likely days, St. Sava (29th of this month) and Palm Sunday, the anniversary of the rising of Milos at Takovo. The latter seems to me the more likely of the two. The country seems unanimous in the desire for Serbia to proclaim a kingdom, though some think that the consent of Austria has been bought too dearly at the price of giving the railway to her nominee, Bontoux. Apropos of this gentleman, a telegram just received from Vienna has caused consternation. It says: 'Crash in Paris.' Bontoux's Bank shares fallen from 3,400 to 1,100." If this be true, the Serbian Government will regret having preferred Bontoux to Sir Thomas Townshend, who was much more reasonable in price, and offered much safer guarantees."

MISS GRISWOLD.

With reference to the dinner given last week by the Stanley Club to Miss Griswold, of the French Opera, the Paris correspondent of *Truth* writes:—"The guest of the evening was in white satin, muslin, and Valenciennes lace, arranged in what appeared a simple, but in reality a complicated and cunningly artistic manner. It would need the pencil of that master *dans le dessin du chiffon*, Carolus Duran, to render justice to this symphony in white. The lace had one tone, the satin another, and the muslin had a tone contrasting with both. Then there were broken tones, and sudden effects created by the draping and frilling, and deep soft ruff. Miss Griswold is reverie-complexioned and natural. One admires in her positive and negative virtues. She is free from staginess, and has that kind of pluck which inspired fair Una to go and get married to her lion. She is bold, but she would never occur to anyone that she expected her friends to pelt her on the stage with bouquets held together with diamond bracelets. This young *déesse* is perfectly innocent in private life of paint and powder, and there is nothing in mind or manner corresponding to either. She has fine frank eyes, nut-brown hair, and one can discern in the figure, which is slim, without meagreness, and in her physiognomy, native refinement and vitality. Of course, all the magnates of the American colony, from Bunker Monroe to the owner and director of the late Mr. W. Stewart's dry goods store at New York, attended. The banquet was served in the Renaissance Hall of the Continental.

In proposing the release of Miss Griswold, and her increased success, Mr. Ryan, the chairman, dwelt upon her proud dignity in choosing to make her way entirely through her own merits, or to fall. After winning a first prize at the Conservatoire, she obtained a first rôle at the Opera-house. From what Mr. Ryan stated, it appears that Miss Griswold was brought up in affluence. A commercial disaster overtook her father, who died in the midst of it. She came into inheritance a child of twelve years, when her father had done his voluntarily reduced the rents 25 per cent., securing the warm thanks of the tenantry for this spontaneous act, and evoking eulogiums from almost every daily paper. To the surprise of the landlord who acted thus generously, not one penny of rent has since received, the tenants declaring that owing to the posting up of the "No Rent" manifesto, signed by Parnell and Dillon, they have determined to abide by the counsels of these gentlemen.

AN IRISH LANDLORD AND HIS RENTS—There are few instances, *Life* says, in which the hardships dealt out by Land League promoters have been more unjustly felt than by the present member for Tipperary, Mr. P. J. Smith. This gentleman purchased some years since a nice paying property in the west of Ireland. A short time subsequent to the purchase his tenants communicated with him, saying that they considered their rents too high. Mr. Smith met them at once on their own terms, and gave them a fair account of what they themselves proposed. During the two succeeding years, when others had done the same, he voluntarily reduced the rents 25 per cent., securing the warm thanks of the tenantry for this spontaneous act, and evoking eulogiums from almost every daily paper. To the surprise of the landlord who acted thus generously, not one penny of rent has since received, the tenants declaring that owing to the posting up of the "No Rent" manifesto, signed by Parnell and Dillon, they have determined to abide by the counsels of these gentlemen.

THE CORPORATION ADDRESS TO THE PREMIER.—The gold casket voted by the Court of Common Council to Mr. Gladstone, in which it is intended to place the illuminated address presented to the right hon. gentleman a short time since, has now been completed by the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, of Regent-street, to whom its execution was entrusted. In carrying out the ideas of the designers the workmen have left nothing to be wished and the result is a work of art remarkable alike for novelty, appropriateness, taste, and skill. The design is of pure Classic character, the severe lines being broken by two Tuscan columns at the ends, and which form bases for the trophies shown above them, viz.—Minerva's helmet, shield and sword, and the civic mace, fasces and cap of liberty. The front has in the centre a monumental trophy, below which the crest, arms and motto of the Premier, surrounded by the viceroy's wreath of laurel, enamelled in proper colours. Approaching the trophy on either side are fair figures executed in the finest repoussé work, and representing respectively the City of London with a mural crown upon her head, the City mace in one hand, while with the other presenting an address;—Commerce holding the caducus of Mercury's staff, indicating the prudence and energy of business, and at the side an ancient anchor showing the important part of navigation in promoting commercial success; Ceres, indicating plenty as the result of the policy of free imports pursued by the Right Honourable Gentleman. Ireland is represented by a figure holding the Irish harp in one hand and the shamrock in the other. The head bears, upon the classic shield, the arms of the City with supporters and mottoes, executed in the most delicate enamel in proper colours. The opposite side has the Premier's arms similarly treated, of the heralds bear ensigned returning to Mr. Gladstone's heraldic gifts. Above the list is another trophy surmounted by the lamp of learning, with the owl, the bird of wisdom, on the reverse front of the casket has a trophy supported by the city dragons, and bearing the following inscription:—"To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Prime Minister of England, as a token of the estimation in which he is held by the citizens of London, and of their appreciation of his high character, rare genius and varied gifts, so long devoted to the service of his country.—22nd September, 1881." The ends have a series of fasces, representing the magistracy with the city shields behind them. The silver base is formed of a flight of steps leading to the chief fasces of the casket, and at the corners are four beautifully-modelled gold emblematic figures, indicating respectively Eloquence, Justice, Industry, and Law. At the side of the steps are various gold emblematic figures.

THE PRESTON ELECTION.—Although it would be unreasonable to attach any political significance to the result of the Preston Election, we may nevertheless congratulate Mr. Raikes on his decisive victory. The mere fact that his opponent has polled within two thousand votes of him shows that he had some real opposition to encounter, and the triumph which is won in the face of a genuine resistance is at once more honourable and satisfactory than that which is purely ceremonial affair."

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

Although the renewal of the present Commercial Treaty between France and England is now assured, no new proposals respecting a fresh arrangement have as yet been made, and it is now very doubtful whether any decisive step will be taken before the assembly of the English Parliament on Tuesday.

In diplomatic circles it is understood that in the event of the fall of Chérif Pacha in Egypt, the Governments of France and England would not actively intervene so long as anarchy was not declared, and the financial control of the country not interfered with. The right to change the Ministry if it pleases is fully allowed to Egypt by the Allied Powers.

While the importance of the great meeting held on Wednesday at the Mansion House in favour of the Jews undergoing persecution in Russia is fully recognised, it is not probable that any direct diplomatic steps will be taken by England, it being held that it is impossible for England to interfere effectively in the internal government of a friendly Power where there is wanting direct evidence of deliberate misgovernment and systematic administrative injustice.

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(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

Mr. Mundella, Vice-President of the Com-

mission of the Local Government Board, he added that he was now in communication with Mr. Dodson on the subject of the education of children at present in workhouses, with the object of removing them from workhouse influences, and as to the advisability of placing them in schools outside workhouses.

ACTION AGAINST THE MARQUIS TOWNSHEND.—

In the Queen's Bench Division on Wednesday an action was brought by Mr. Frank Townshend, a private tutor, against the Marquess of Townshend, for a claim for services rendered. Plaintiff had entered into an agreement to prepare Mr. C. V. Townshend for the open military competition, the terms being sixteen guineas a month or £3 6s. 4d. for 56 weeks.

MISS GRISWOLD.—

With reference to the dinner given last week by the Stanley Club to Miss Griswold, of the French Opera, the Paris correspondent of *Truth* writes:—"The Queen's Bench Division on Wednesday was brought before Mr. Frank Townshend, a private tutor, against the Marquess of Townshend, for a claim for services rendered. Plaintiff had entered into an agreement to prepare Mr. C. V. Townshend for the open military competition, the terms being sixteen guineas a month or £3 6s. 4d. for 56 weeks.

CAPTAIN BOYCOTT.—

A correspondent in Servia, whose letter is dated January 22d, says:—"Here every one is on the tip-toe of expectation as to whether the Skupetchev, which was signed by the Prince-regard, will declare Serbia a kingdom. There are two likely days, St. Sava (29th of this month) and Palm Sunday, the anniversary of the rising of Milos at Takovo. The latter seems to me the more likely of the two. The country seems unanimous in the desire for Serbia to proclaim a kingdom, though some think that the consent of Austria has been bought too dearly at the price of giving the railway to her nominee, Bontoux. Apropos of this gentleman, a telegram just received from Vienna has caused consternation. It says: 'Crash in Paris.' Bontoux's Bank shares fallen from 3,400 to 1,100." If this be true, the Serbian Government will regret having preferred Bontoux to Sir Thomas Townshend, who was much more reasonable in price, and offered much safer guarantees."

Galignani's Messenger.

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THE COLLAPSE OF THE UNION GÉNÉRALE.

The stoppage of the Union Générale, followed by the arrest of M. Bontoux, the president, and M. Féder, the manager of the company, has naturally directed attention to the proceedings of that remarkable association. Of M. Bontoux himself it is becoming to say little now that his conduct is subject to judicial investigation. It is difficult to believe that a company whose Board of Directors included members of some of the most distinguished families in France—the d'Harcourts, the de Broglies, and others—should have consciously and deliberately lent itself to fraudulent transactions. But it is certain that the mania for wild speculation, from which no section of French society seems to have held aloof, has afforded opportunities for illicit transactions of which it is difficult to believe that no one has taken advantage. A financial crisis such as that which has occurred in Paris, though it spreads ruin far and wide, does not leave every one the poorer. There are always a few men coolheaded enough to take advantage of the general infatuation, and they are not always very scrupulous as to the choice of their methods. If they and their clients weather the storm, nothing is heard of them; but if a crash comes, there is a natural tendency to treat them as scapegoats. Of the nature of M. Bontoux's transactions, whether legitimate or illegitimate, we say nothing at present; but it is only just to notice the tribute paid on Thursday by M. Léon Say to the integrity of the Paris brokers. He had seen, he said, a thing which had not been witnessed for a century in the Paris money market. He had seen brokers taking measures amid a financial crisis without Government intervention for insuring that all their customers should be paid punctually at the settlement without knowing whether the debtors would be equally punctual. This upright conduct of the Paris brokers contrasts very favourably with the proposal of M. Andrioux, the deputy for Lyons, for a sort of temporary act of indemnity on behalf of the brokers of Lyons. No doubt the financial crisis at Lyons is even more serious than at Paris, and it may easily have very unfavourable effects on French commerce and industry. But the feeling of the Chamber was so strong against any proposal to relieve individuals from the consequences of what was stigmatized as gambling that M. Andrioux was interrupted in the reading of his proposition, and it was speedily disposed of by means of the "previous question."—*Times*.

The *Daily News* observes:—The Comte de Chambord is said to have been a devoted believer in M. Bontoux, and to be a heavy loser by him. A wild speculation in the shares of the Union Générale set in, and women as well as men are believed to have taken part in it. Indeed, there are stories told of aristocratic ladies hiring rooms in the business quarters of Paris, to be near their brokers and within reach of every scrap of intelligence that might affect the value of stocks. In the drawing-room and at the dinner table, too, the talk of stocks and shares quite banished the usual interchange of gallantry and the discussion of politics. It was thought that all that was necessary to make fortune was to buy Union Générale shares, and the clerical and reactionary parties rushed wildly to buy. In consequence, the nominal £20 share, on which only £5 were paid, was pushed up at one time to £10, and stood for a long time at £12. From this last figure it dropped suddenly within a few weeks until the quotation now is entirely nominal. But, though the foolish and the inexperienced swallowed all the fine promises of M. Bontoux, experts were quite aware that a mushroom growth of this kind could not last. Accordingly some of the great operators in Paris began to sell the shares of the Union Générale, without, however, having them in their possession. They trusted that the knowledge that they themselves were selling would alarm the holders of the shares, and would lead to a heavy fall; or, in any case, they hoped that, if called upon to deliver the shares, they would be able to borrow or to buy them. They were disappointed, however, in both expectations. The followers of M. Bontoux stuck gallantly to their colours, and refused to be frightened by the action of the "bears" as the sellers in blank are called; while M. Bontoux on his part bought up all the shares that were offered. As it is illegal for a bank to buy its own shares, it was alleged that the Union Générale had lent money to its clients, and that they had given the order to M. Bontoux to buy. If this be so, of course the purchases can be justified, even though the purchasers themselves may not be able to repay the loans advanced to them. There may have been want of caution and much ill-judgment in making the loans; but of course every banker is liable to mistakes. It is asserted, however, that the orders from the clients referred to were in a large part mythical, and that, in reality, M. Bontoux was using the money of the bank to buy its own shares. This clearly is a very grave charge—that of using the deposits entrusted to the bank to buy its own shares; for now that the bank has failed the depositors have in return for their money only the worthless shares to look to, which in reality are of no more value than blank paper. At the last meeting of the shareholders of the Union Générale M. Bontoux stated that the profits realized in all these ways were great enough to enable the shareholders to pay up the £15 still due on each of their shares. He recommended therefore that, instead of declaring a dividend, the profits should be applied to pay up the shares in full. This recommendation was adopted. The plan always seemed suspiciously absurd to judicious observers. If the alleged profits really were made, they were made, as we have said, chiefly from the money earned by promoting other companies, and partly also from the "cornering" operation, which could not often be repeated. They were therefore to a large extent accidental, and it would have been the proper course for the Directors to put to reserve by far the larger part of them, which would have enabled the bank to go on until gradually it obtained proper banking business. But if the object was to hide the fact that the money of the shareholders and depositors

had been squandered away, it was a most clever device. The shareholders, finding their responsibility for fifteen pounds a share so easily wiped out, were not curious to inquire whether the money for doing so was in the bank or not. It is now asserted that since the failure of the bank an investigation has been made, and instead of the large profits represented to have been realized by M. Bontoux, there is a deficit of nearly four millions sterling. Much depends of course upon what is meant by the word "deficit." If it means alone that the profits represented to have been made are not forthcoming and cannot be accounted for, the matter affects the shareholders chiefly. But if it means that the capital of the bank has gone, and part also of the deposits, it becomes a very serious matter. Then M. Bontoux would in fact be accused of having represented that the bank had made large profits when in reality it was utterly bankrupt; and he would also be accused of employing the deposits entrusted to his care in buying the shares of this bankrupt concern. As yet the information before us does not enable us to say which is the interpretation to be put upon this alleged deficit in the funds of the Union Générale.

The Standard says:—It is perfectly certain that since the collapse of the Crédit Mobilier no such disastrous financial failure as this has affected France. The prospects of a favourable liquidation are certainly not bright. Still, the depositors appear to be safe, and the loss will fall mainly on the Directors and those shareholders who bought in when the Stock was at an inflated price. The latter may be dismissed, as most of them are likely to prove men of straw. But the Directorate is composed of people of wealth and position—who might almost say the pink of Orthodoxy and the flower of Legitimacy. The list which our Correspondent furnishes reads like the roll call of the ancienne noblesse, who, only ten years ago, seemed in a fair way to rule France, under that "Roy" whom rumour asserts that any direct diplomatic steps will be taken by England, it being held that it is impossible for England to interfere effectively in the internal government of a friendly Power where there is wanting direct evidence of deliberate misgovernment and systematic administrative injustice.

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Some time ago we called attention to the case of a French ship, the *Française*, bound for India from Réunion, with returning Coolies, which put in at Seychelles in a leaky state. The Coolies were landed, and the authorities of Réunion were written on the subject. They despatched a second vessel, which also proved to be insufficient for the purpose. The *Française* of 89 of whom had to be left behind at Seychelles. We now learn from a correspondent that the Governor of Réunion decided to send another ship, and at the same time informed the British Consul that the Coolies had been illegally detained at Seychelles, and that the authorities might do what they liked with them. A vessel has since been sent from Mauritius to Seychelles to convey the 89 Coolies to Pondicherry, and Lieutenant-Governor Broome has made a full report on the whole matter to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The incident has caused much excitement both at Mauritius and at Réunion.

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The performance itself was not of a very superior class. I forgot the name of the opera; but, if I remember rightly, the prima donna was a very good singer, and had no voice to speak of; the basso profondo was as hoarse as a raven; and the tenor had a wooden leg. But the Opera-house at Rovigo is a very handsome theatre, and illuminated *a giorno*, and crowded with people dressed in their Sunday best, it looked splendid. I was in the pit, and, standing up, as the entire company sang Garibaldi's Hymn, I noticed that the front of the grand tier of boxes was decorated with a series of oval medallions bearing the names of famous composers. I spelt them all out—Handel, Mozart, Gluck, Rossini, Bellini, Verdi, Weber, Mendelssohn, Aubert, Donizetti, Meyerbeer, Cherubini, Flotow, Balfe, etc., etc. I did not notice any name, but no such honour had been paid him in his own country. Are our American cousins really in danger, owing to the abnormal mildness as yet, my friends, as yet, of an ice famine next summer? The latest reports of the ice harvest are slightly more reassuring than those which last came to hand. A *New York Herald* reporter has recently "interviewed" an extensive dealer in the frigid commodity, and has been assured that from the State of Maine, at least, the supply of ice will be unlimited. On Lake Erie, which is on the line of the Portland and Rochester Railroad, the ice is stated to be ten inches thick. On the other hand the Kennebec river is only a shellied over, and not navigable. It is, however, in this case, that the apprehended scarcity of an article which the Americans could easily but utterly refuse to go without will lead to a greater "cornering" on the part of the ice companies, and that the price of ice will be largely enhanced. There is not, the slightest reason why the American people shouldgulp down about three-quarters of a pint of iced water apiece before breakfast all the year round; but they will do it, and "they all do it," and there is no use in endeavouring to dissuade them from the deleterious practice.—G.A.S. in the *Illustrated London News*.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

"They've got 'em on"—the boxing-gloves, the fencers' masks, the quarter-staves, the rapiers, all ready for "the carte and the tierce, and the reason demonstrative." This "writ iugitative" art, Art. V. Ward would have said, is really in that in the February number of *Temple Bar* (a magazine for which I have an enduring fondness) seeing that it is one of my own children there is a furious polemic going on between Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Lady Shelley, and the anonymous writer of a very clever article on the late Mr. E. J. Trelawny, which appeared in a recent number of "the Bar." The Baroness is, as Miss Cobbe very aptly says, a "horrid one," so, for the details of the story, I must refer you to the current issue of T.B. As regards the poet of the "Revolt of Islam," Lady Shelley writes in the third person, and with the disdainful dignity of the Prophet Mahomet addressing a blackbeard to stigmaise as an "arrogant fool," some statement made by Shelley's heart.

The writer of the impudent article on Mr. Trelawny sums up his reply to her Ladyship's complaint with a general observation that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. The gentleman is, colloquially a little behind the age. The most modern version of the proverb is, "I think I have pointed this out before" that Photographers ought to shy bricks."

Why on earth cannot people leave poor Byron's foot and Shelley's heart alone?

In this most unseemly controversy Mr. E. J. Trelawny is branded as a shameless seller of lies; and the name of Mrs. Shattock, Mr. Leigh Hunt, and the late Mr.

George Flinley, author of the "History of Modern Great Britain," are all dragged in, *à tort et à travers*. Does it matter, at this time of day, whether the Bard of Childe Harold was a contipede or a *cul-de-patte*? Whether he was a Briar-rose or a twin brother of Miss Biffin? Who troubles himself now about Pope's stans and Scarron's hump, and Heine's paraiso?

Mr. Raikes has not had a "walk over," and at the same time he has been able to demonstrate that Preston remains, as it has always been since the Reform Act of sixteen years ago, a stronghold of Conservatism. Political movement in any constituency is better for all parties concerned than political stagnation. It is much more creditable to Conservatism to hold its own when its enemies are on the alert—and it is a far more hopeful sign of its future—that if its representatives were to be returned without any show of contest in merely automatic succession. The circumstances, therefore, under which Mr. Raikes has won is eminently gratifying, and not only Preston and the Conservative Party, but the House of Commons also, will be pleased at the issue of the struggle. Mr. Raikes has always been a thoroughly useful member of Parliament. He showed equal judgment and acumen, and he made it clear that he had but one object at heart—the dignity and the national usefulness of Parliament. At all times it would be matter of satisfaction that such a man should reappear in the ranks of his Party at Westminster; for obvious reasons it is particularly so at the present moment. When the Bradlaugh business, and the *Admiral* case, to the Royal Messes, are disposed of, that chief subject of discussion will be the reform of the House of Commons. This is a topic on which Mr. Raikes is pre-eminently qualified to speak. His opinion will be received with attention, because it will be based upon experience. An official of the House of Commons ceases, *ipso facto*, to be a partisan, and never was a chairman of Committees who showed

the least partisanship.

But the heroic Hannah did not long continue to cultivate the Thespian art. In consideration of the gallantry which she had exhibited at the siege of Pondicherry, a comfortable pension was settled on her by the Government, and she gracefully retired into private life.

I am sorry for the sake of the aesthetic and the romantic! to add that the English Joan of Arc opened a public-house at Wapping, and

himself less a partisan than Mr. Raikes.

Moreover, he knows from the usages of more than one Session what vexatious Obstruction is; and he cannot fail to sympathise with any well-conceived attempt to put it down. He will, in a word, be of great use to his Party and to the whole House, and he will reappear at Westminster at a period when his reappearance will be heartily welcomed.—Standard.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH.")

Although the renewal of the present Commercial Treaty between France and England is now assured, the main purpose of which is to establish a free trade system between the two countries, it is now very doubtful whether any decisive step will be taken before the assembly of the English Parliament on Tuesday.

That estimable section of the Anglican clergy the Curates have formed an Alliance, the object of which is to agitate for fifty of tenure and an amelioration of the diocesan status of the unbenedictine clergy. To put the matter more plainly, there are some five thousand curates, assisting rectors and vicars in parochial work and receiving for the same salaries ranging between one hundred and one hundred and fifty pounds per annum.

That there are about 1,500 curates more curates "unattached," but a very large proportion of these, I should say, must be assistant masters in schools. The "attached" curates plead that they are liable to dismissal at the capricious will of their employers, and that they ought, in justice, to be irremonable, and to be paid not directly by the incumbent but out of a diocesan fund. The Alliance held a very numerously attended meeting in Clerkenwell parish vestry-room on Friday week, and a few days afterwards the *Times* gave the Alliance a hearty endorsement.

The Right Hon. G. Selater-Booth, M.P., and family have arrived at their residence in St. George's-square.

Sir Tollemache Sinclair, Bart., M.P., and Miss Sinclair have arrived at 62, Eaton-sq.

The Health of Sir Michael Costa continued to improve on Thursday.

recent illness, has had a relapse, and is again unable to leave his room. The Duke of Rutland is also confined to his room owing to an attack of bronchitis, but is progressing favourably. Lady Elizabeth Drummond, who has been very ill, is now nearly convalescent.

A marriage is arranged between the Hon. Patrick Greville-Nugent, fourth son of Lord Greville, of Clavyn, and Ermengarda, only daughter of the Rev. Mr. Augustus Ogilvy, Cope, Dorsetshire, A.B.

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ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS IN WORKHOUSES.

—Mr. Mundella, Vice-President of the Council, was on Thursday waited upon by a delegation of Catholics, with the object of asking to use his influence with the Government in favor of making it compulsory for lords of guardians to provide Catholic priests in workhouses. The farmers are represented as complaining that they cannot secure "good all-round men" at any price; that is, labourers with a competent knowledge of all the details of agriculture, and capable of giving practical effect to this learning. This deterioration is debited by some to the influence of education, in causing the rural population to set a less value than formerly on manual toil. They perform it merely in a perfunctory fashion, and their thoughts being concentrated on the pleasures and profits of urban life. There may possibly be some truth in this theory, but how are we to account for the simultaneous degeneracy of the British farmer? He used to be the very type of John Bull; strong, brave, domineering, and with the full courage of his convictions. Now, on the contrary, if we are to believe the Liberal picture of the worthy fellow, he has become a pitiful sneak, who, in spite of the ballot, cannot muster up courage to back his political opinions by his votes. This has been assigned as one of the causes for Mr. Rowlandson's defeat in the North Riding; he was certainly beaten by farmers who approved his candidate polled in his favour. And now Mr. Richard, the member for Merthyr Tydfil, laments that Welsh farmers are, politically, "a very timid, cautious class." No wonder that British agriculture should be going to the bad, when those principally concerned in it have undergone such deterioration.—*Globe*.

ECCLÉSIASTICAL QUESTIONS IN THE COMING SESSION.

—The *Liberator* anticipates that there will be an increased amount of time bestowed next session upon the ecclesiastical questions, which are likely to be pressed from different quarters. In the first place there is the motion of the disestablishment of the Scottish Church, of which notice has been given by Mr. Peebles, which had to a considerable extent had its intended effect—in existing discussion in Scotland, and preparing the ground for decisive electoral action. Then a "Contingent Bill" will be brought in by Mr. Richard, and a bill for amending the law relating to Nonconformist marriages will also be introduced.

Should the bill for reforming the administration of charities in the City of London be again brought in, it is intended

to raise the question whether the now useless ecclesiastical charities shall be applied to new ecclesiastical purposes.

Probably the question of clerical headships and fellowships in the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge will be settled for a long period to come. We hope that there will also be commenced a movement for the abolition of ecclesiastical tests in the national expense. These were originally supported at the national expense. They are the remaining ecclesiastical grants in the colonies to be dealt with; but if Lord Kimberley continues to move forward on the lines he has laid in the cases of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements, there will not be much left to be effected by a parliamentary motion. The Church reformers also are likely to be far more active this year than for some years past.

ASSAULT ON A GIRL IN A RAILWAY CARriage.—James Woodbridge, the son of a builder at Maidenhead, was charged at Windsor on Wednesday with assaulting Emily Graye Francis, 16 years of age. The complainant and the defendant, who were previously acquainted, were travelling from Windsor to Slough by railway, and on the journey the defendant kissed the complainant several times and was guilty of other improprieties. The magistrates imposed a fine of £2 and 17s. 6d. costs.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S SEAT.—Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Bradlaugh were present at a meeting of the Liberal Club at Northampton on Wednesday night. Mr. Bradlaugh said that Mr. Bradlaugh would present himself at the table of the House of Commons on the first day of the session, when, if Sir Stafford Northcote moved a resolution to hinder him and his constituency from enjoying their constitutional rights, the previous question would be moved. He was not without hope that Mr. Gladstone would himself move the previous question, and if he did so probably the "shabby abstentions" on the part of Liberals which occurred last year would not take place. If they were defeated they might rest assured that he would not allow the member to rest; but he would not anticipate a defeat. Mr. Bradlaugh remarked that he had a right to stand for the constituency, and that the constituents, who had received the manifesto signed by Parnell and Dillon, they have determined to abide by the counsels of

the people.

THE MURDERS AT NOTTINGHAM.—At the Nottingham Assizes on Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Hawkins, Henry Westby, aged nineteen, clerk in a solicitor's office, was charged with the murder of Henry Smith Westby, his father, and William O. Baker, a boy who was employed in the same office. The prisoner pleaded guilty but afterwards withdrew his plea. While in the police-cells the prisoner made a full confession of both crimes, alleging that he was tired of life, and that his father had annoyed him. The defence failed to establish a proof of insanity, and the prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to death.

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE "CAT."—Thomas Winter, a labourer, who was convicted at Durham of an assault upon Mary Thompson, aged 78 years, received the first portion of his punishment in Durham gaol on Wednesday, when he had 15 strokes of the "cat." Winter is stated to have borne his punishment phlegmatically.

CAPTAIN LAMBERT AND THE JUNIOR ARMY AND NAVY CLUB.—Mr. Justice Kay had before him again on Wednesday a motion made by Captain Lambert, formerly a member of the Junior Army and Navy Club, against the committee, for an injunction calling upon them to reinstate him as a member of the club, on the ground that he had been improperly expelled. The defendants in justification of the expulsion alleged that the plaintiff had made remarks disparaging to the committee in a loud and swelling tone. The committee partly heard yesterday and to-day his lordship's judgment. He said that Captain Lambert had three opportunities given to him of defending his conduct, but he declined to do so. Unless the committee could be held to have acted *mala fide* and contrary to the rules of the club, the court had no power to interfere. In the opinion of the court, the committee had acted *bona fide* and courteously and legally, and therefore

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 4—5, 1882.

ENGLAND AND THE EGYPTIAN CRISIS.

The *Saturday Review* remarks that Egypt has recently furnished a topic to more than one speaker who holds, or has held, an official position which at once enables and authorises him to speak on the subject with more than usual authority. To quarrel, not with France, but with the rest of the world, in order that we may make France the sole mistress of Egypt, is a piece of hollow folly of which the Government may have been guilty, but of which we cannot be sure it has been guilty until we know what has really happened. Lord Granville may have changed his mind entirely since he informed France that England would view with displeasure a French occupation of Tripoli, as it would bring France much too near to Egypt. But it is also possible that he may be of the same mind now as when he wrote about Tripoli. There is no kind of evidence at the command of any one who is not in the secrets of our own or some other Foreign Office that the course taken by England has offended the German Powers, or that France has made England follow her lead, or that the just claims of the Sultan have been ignored, or that the Ministry is not walking, as Sir Charles Dilke says it is, in the paths of its predecessors. There is always chance that an English Foreign Secretary, whether he is a Liberal Conservative, has been prudent and firm; and the best thing to do before either condemning or approving Lord Granville seems to be to take the advice of Mr. Bourke, and to wait until the meeting of Parliament supplies us with the information that is indispensable for forming a correct judgment. The occasion for action may not arise until there has been time for England to determine, in conjunction with France, with Europe, and with the Sultan, what form intervention, if absolutely necessary, shall take, or else to adopt a totally new policy, and to retire from all exercise of political influence in Egypt.

The *Times* says:—The time seems to be rapidly approaching when it will be necessary to ask what is the exact meaning attached by the Governments of England and France to the Joint Note lately addressed to the Khedive. It is plainly necessary that our own Government should lose no time in ascertaining the views of the new Government in France on the present situation, as well as its real intentions in case the contingencies contemplated in the Joint Note should arise. Either the Note means that force will be used if a considerable steady advance in the first-class securities, which have been depreciated by the events of the last few weeks having sympathised with the fall in the “rubbish” which has occurred. But the very discredit of other securities, as long experience has shown, tends to the enhancement of the value of the first-class article, and we may anticipate, therefore, that there will be a new demand for first-class securities in consequence of the Bourse crisis in France.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, FRIDAY.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh. Her Majesty's dinner party in the evening included the Empress Eugénie, the Princess Beatrice, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, Madame de Arcos, Mlle. Corvisart, the Duc de Bassano, Baron Corvisart, Lieutenant-General the Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, K.C.B., Lieutenant-General Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Captain Bigge. The Hon. Lady and Miss Ponsonby and Mrs. Bigge, with the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, had the honour of joining the Royal circle in the Drawing Room. Her Majesty walked with Princess Beatrice this morning.

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA.

The Empress of Austria and a numerous suite arrived at Dover on Saturday morning from Calais by special boat. Her Majesty had a very pleasant voyage, the sea being quite calm. On arriving alongside the pier Captain Sir T. C. Bruce, R.N., went on board and escorted her Majesty from the vessel to the special London and North Western train, which was waiting on the pier. Among those who also went on board to receive the illustrious visitor were Count Karolyi, the Austrian Ambassador, Mr. Mortimer Harris and Mr. Cockburn, as representing the London and Chatham Railway, and Mr. J. P. Neel, superintendent of the London and North Western Railway. There was a large assemblage of ladies on the landing-stage. The Empress had luncheon at the Lord Wardrobe Hotel, and left at noon for the Lord Wardrobe, and Dover station, via Longbridge Junction, for Combermere Abbey. On her way to the station she was accompanied by Mr. M. Harris (the manager), Captain Godshill (continental manager) and Mr. W. C. Cockburn (superintendent of the line), accompanied the train, which was in charge of Mr. W. Kirtley, the locomotive engineer. From Battersea the Empress proceeded over the West London Extension and by the London and North Western Railway to Wrenbury, Cheshire.

The *Daily News* says:—It is possible that Tewfik may himself turn for assistance to the Sultan. If he does, it will probably be the most imprudent step which he ever took in his life. The Joint Note was no doubt directed against dangers which menaced the Khedive's authority, and not against additional elements of disturbance which he should deliberately introduce himself. But it is impossible to foresee what might happen if a Turkish force were sent to Egypt by the Sultan at this critical juncture. The independence of the Khedive, such as it is, would be gone, unless the protecting Powers themselves interfered. England could indeed scarcely acquiesce in the reimposition of Turkish authority upon a country in which she has so vital an object to secure. It is not easy to see what justification we have for interfering with Egyptian claims to self-government, or what object we should gain by crushing Oubri Bey.

The *Daily Telegraph* observes:—To pause now and do nothing; to ignore Lord Granville's despatch of November last and the Joint Note; to leave the Controllers unsupported, and let a fresh set of Mamelukes adventurers prey upon the Egyptian Treasury in face of the brute force embodied in half a dozen mutinous regiments of undisciplined blacks, would be an atrocious de-

reliance of duty and a betrayal of the claims, not of Liberalism merely, but of humanity. Whether the duty of restoring order and then bringing the mutineers to their senses be confided to English and French troops, or, as seems most likely, to the well-disciplined battalions of the Sultan, who is Suzerain of Egypt, strong measures, under the sanction of England and France, must be applied; and the sooner the better.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

The *Economist* points out that it may be taken for granted that, however free London has been from the taint of French speculations, we must be affected by it. It is an axiom of Free Trade that what benefits our neighbours will, in the long run, benefit us likewise; and certainly the reverse of this is equally true where trade is as unfeigned as it is between the Paris Bourse and Capel-court. Nor must it be supposed that the effect of this crisis in Paris will be very temporary. The prices not only of financial institutions, but of other descriptions of enterprise, such as railways, Suez Canal, and other concerns, have been forced up unwarrantably high, and confidence in such prices, once shaken, is not readily restored. Besides which, the defalcations throughout France are distressingly numerous, and settlements which are only bolstered up by millions borrowed from the State cannot certainly be considered reassuring. Had the Paris crisis occurred when speculation ran so high in London last spring, when stocks were being held here so largely with borrowed money, and when our subscriptions upon new securities had attained exceptional dimensions, the effect would have been far more rapid and pronounced. As it is, a probable improvement after the weakness of last autumn has been checked, and the existing probabilities are that it will continue to be so checked for some time to come. France will not, in the nature of things, recover very soon from the shock to credit now apparent, and this may be expected before long to react upon trade. Austria and Hungary, doubtless, will feel all this more than we shall, for in France there has been a rage for Austro-Hungarian securities of all kinds; but in a modified form it will probably be found to have affected us; and even now our trade advances are distinctly favourable than they were a month ago.

The *Statist* says:—The crisis, it must be understood, is not wholly a Bourse crisis. It is a monetary and banking crisis as well, and it is this feature which will make the after consequences in France more serious than they would otherwise be. Business having been developed during the last few years, by means of credit-institutions, the disturbance of credit which has occurred will check the means of action which these companies have enjoyed, business will be curtailed in some directions, and all France must suffer in consequence. Along with this will be a great diminution in the purchases of certain articles of manufacture and general consumption in France, owing to the disappearance of the apparent wealth which the rise on the Bourse had created. The time for feeling these after-consequences has not yet come; but that they will be felt is quite certain, as long experience has shown. Very likely they will be surmounted more easily than they would be in the case of almost any other country, in consequence of the saving habits of the French people. The difficulties that have to be faced are nothing compared with those which had to be faced after the Franco-German War of 1870-71. Still, they will be serious difficulties, and we ought not to expect that France will get over them for many months, and perhaps for a year or two to come. Meanwhile, however, it may be considered, apparently, that the crisis itself is over. What will happen next will probably be a considerable steady advance in the first-class securities, which have been depreciated by the events of the last few weeks having sympathy with the fall in the “rubbish” which has occurred. But the very discredit of other securities, as long experience has shown, tends to the enhancement of the value of the first-class article, and we may anticipate, therefore, that there will be a new demand for first-class securities in consequence of the Bourse crisis in France.

The *Standard* maintains that “we have got ourselves into an embarrassing predicament, and our embarrassment springs and dates from that unfortunate Identical Note to which Earl Granville set his hand. In that Note it was plainly intimated that the Khedive, who had not asked for any such assurance, would be protected equally against his Parliament and his suzerain. Had it not been for that action of our own Government the Notables would be curbed by the same authority that deposed Ismail Pacha, and that signed the firman under which the Anglo-French Control exists and operates. To abandon Egypt is impossible. To join France in an enterprise palpably illegal, and one which would be challenged by Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy, would be madness. There remains an appeal to Constantinople. Were any statesman at the head of affairs except Mr. Gladstone such a step would be easy and natural. For him it will be unusual and difficult. Yet he must take it.

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during the present month and in March at the family residence, Carlton House-terrace.

Lord and Lady Monson have returned to their residence in Belgrave-square from Burton Hall, Lincolnshire.

Lord and Lady Sudley and family have arrived in town from their country seat.

Lord and Lady Hotfield have arrived at Chesterfield-gardens, Mayfair, from Hotfield-place, Kent.

The Right Hon. William N. F. Cogan, M.P., has arrived in town from Ireland.

Sir Michael Costa continues to improve. A messenger called at Sir Michael's residence to make inquiries on behalf of the Queen on Friday morning.

We have authority for stating that the interview which had been arranged between the Hon. Miss Abbott and Mr. Le Bas will not take place. *Morning Post.*

Letters have been received from the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, rector of Hawarden, announcing his arrival, in improved health, at Gibraltar on board of Mr. Brassey's yacht Sunbeam.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

“They've got 'em on”—the boxing-gloves, the fencers' masks, the quarter-staves, the rapiers, all ready for “the carte and the tierce, and the reason demonstrative.” This is “writ figurative,” as Artemus Ward would have said. I really mean that in the February number of *Temple Bar* (a magazine for which I have an enduring fondness) there is a furious *polémie* going on between Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Lady Shelley, and the anonymous writer of a very clever article on the late Mr. E. J. Trelawny, which appeared in a recent number of “the Bar.” The question at issue is Lord Byron's club foot, and the ashes of Shelley's heart. The Byron business is, as Miss Cobbe very aptly says, a “horrid one”; so, for the details of the *Bar*. As regards the poem of the “Revolts of Islam,” Lady Shelley writes in the third person, and with the disdainful dignity of the Prophet Mahomet addressing a blackheath to stigmatise as “an atrocious falsehood” some statement made about Shelley's heart.

Man: The writer of the impugned article on Mr. Trelawny sums up his reply to her Ladyship's complaint with a general observation that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. The gentleman is, colloquially, a little behind the age. The most modern version of the proverb is (I think I have pointed this out before) “that Photographers oughtn't to shy bricks.”

Why on earth cannot people leave poor Byron's foot and Shelley's heart alone? In this most unseemly controversy Mr. E. J. Trelawny is branded as a shameless teller of fibs; and the names of Mrs. Shelley, Mrs. Williams, Leigh Hunt, and the late Mr. George Finlay, author of the “History of Modern Greece,” are all dragged in, *à tort et à travers*. Does it matter, at this time of day, whether the Bard of Childe Harold was a centaur or a *cult-dévote*? Whither he was a Briareus or a twin brother of Miss Billin? Who troubles himself now about Pope's stays and Scarron's hump, and Heine's paroxysms, and Hoger's *litté de mort*?

The benevolent Mr. Landry is not the only actor who has been practically a first-class professional appearance for the *Stoops to Conquer matinée*, in aid of the Royal General Theatrical Fund, was only a *coup d'essai* so far as Mrs. Langtry was concerned; he has charmed a London audience by going through the military exercises on the stage. In the year 1750 the famous Amazon Hannah Snell, who had served the King both by sea and land, and had more than once been severely wounded in action, was persuaded to try her fortune as a public-house by the sign of “The Female Warrior,” at Wapping, and that she eventually married a respectable carpenter.

That estimable section of the Anglican clergy the Curates have formed an Alliance, the object of which is to agitate for fifty of tenures and an amelioration of the diocesan status of the unbeneficed clergy. To put the matter more plainly, there are some five thousand curates, assisting rectors and vicars in parochial work and receiving for the same salaries ranging between one hundred and one hundred and fifty pounds per annum. Then there are about five thousand more “unattached”; but a very large proportion of these, I should say, must be assistant masters in schools. The “attached” curates plead that they are liable to dismissal at the capricious will of their employers, and that they ought, in justice, to be irreversibly, and to be paid directly by the incumbent but out of a diocesan fund. The Alliances held a very successful assembly meeting in Cheltenham parish vestry-room on Friday week, and a few days afterwards the *Times* gave the Alliance a leading article, in which a liberal allowance of buckets of cold water was administered to the “ecclesiastical hirings,” as Jeremy Collier bitterly complains that of his time were called.

The term “Curate” has not long continued to cultivate the thespian art. In consideration of the gallantry with which he had exhibited at the siege of Pondicherry, comfortable pension was settled on him by the Government, and she graciously retired into private life.

I am sorry for the sake of the aesthetic and the romantic to add that the English Joan of Arc opened a public-house by the sign of

“The Female Warrior,” at Wapping, and that she eventually married a respectable carpenter.

A representative meeting of the Westminster Working Men's Constitutional Association took place on Friday at the offices of the former society, at 6, Victoria-street, Westminster. A consultation then took place as to the future Conservative candidate to be nominated by the committee. Several names were alluded to as those of gentlemen eligible to contest the seat. After a short discussion the feeling of the meeting was unanimously in favour of the candidature of Lord Algernon Percy. On the same day it is expected that the Liberal Committee will hold a meeting to the same effect.

REMINISCENCES OF FAUST.—At a meeting of the Royal Society of Literature, held on Wednesday night, General Sir Collingwood Dickson, V.C., read a paper contributed by Sir Patrick de Colquhoun, on “Faustus.”

The author of this paper commenced by showing Faustus to be an historical personage, and a friend and companion of Cornelius Agrippa, himself suspected of magical heresies.

His death is mentioned by Gesner, who compares him to Paracelsus; and, further, in Luther's “Table-talk” he is referred to in a complimentary strain.

The oldest account of Faust is in 1587, when it is stated that he was born at Rod, near Weimar (Roda in Altburg), and that he was educated at Wittemberg, in Ingolstadt, and Cracow, attaining ultimately the degree of doctor of divinity. Mephistopheles is stated to have been told by the Devil to minister to his thirst for knowledge, as he had entered into a compact with the Devil for the purpose of obtaining a deeper knowledge of the hidden mysteries of nature and science. The Reformation took place in Faust's time, when many distinguished scholars and theologians were accused of heresy and magic. The author had collected and gave in detail the various pamphlets in which reference is made to this. This much is beyond doubt, that he was considered by his day a man learned above his fellows. He appears to have attached himself to the reformed creed. Many books are attributed to him on physical science and necromancy, which are referred to in the voluminous appendix attached to the paper. Anyhow we may be sure that Faust was a man of abilities and learning beyond the ordinary run of his countrymen, whose general ignorance caused them to regard him as a magician; and these qualifications, which appeared supernatural to the common people, were probably no more than the result of scientific inquiry. For the same reason he was accused of having entered into a compact with the Devil for the purpose of obtaining a deeper knowledge of the hidden mysteries of nature and science. The absurd legends with which his life has been overlaid are instructive as showing the state of learning pervading Germany at that epoch, and for this reason the paper *en extenso* cannot fail to interest scholars. The history collected and digested by the author also shows that he was granted with the view of preventing a recurrence of these crimes. Yours truly,

HUGH POYSON.

The Committee, it is stated, had already anticipated the Queen's wishes, and made preparations for carrying them out.

DRIVING THROUGH THE SALVATION ARMY.

At the Dudley police-court on Friday, Samuel Brookes, publisher, was charged with negligently driving, and with assaulting a “lieutenant” in the Salvation Army. The defendant came up with the Army, and deliberately lashed his horse in among the crowd, striking right and left, at those who tried to stop the horse. He was fined 25s. and costs, or three weeks' imprisonment.

LIVING IN THE WOODS.—A strange-looking man, about forty years of age, was charged at the Woolwich police-court on Friday with sleeping in the open air, and having no visible means of subsistence.

A constable said that for more than a month past he had heard of a man who slept nightly in Shooter's Hill Wood, and search had been made for him without result until the previous night.

When he found the prisoner lying in a hollow concealed by close brushwood and brambles, and covered with straw and sheets of brown paper. The prisoner, who is a native of France and did not speak English, said that he had lived in the wood for the last two months. He was a musician, and he came to London with 600fr., of which he was robbed.

He had since been living in the best way he could, and not very uncomfortably, and he only wanted to be let alone until the fine season came, and then he would get home.

The magistrate suggested that he would be better in the workhouse, but he retorted that he had been one night in the workhouse, and would rather be snug in the woods.

He was discharged from custody, but the police accompanied him to the workhouse.

TESTIMONIALS.—We have been favoured

with some batches of testimonials, signed by all the teachers at one of our great London Schools of Medicine. We never before fully appreciated the power of language to conceal the thoughts of the writers of these testimonials. Surely not one of the gentlemen who wrote these effusions believed a word of what he was writing. It is the custom to give such credentials to all students. There are recognised formulae, and the hard worker receives them in full form of words, setting forth their abilities, their fitness for any particular appointment. There is a positive dishonesty, or want of morality, about this system, that is disheartening to think about. Has medicine a tendency to lower the moral tone? An American journal has recently published a leading article, deliberately stating that it has such an effect. These testimonials give colour to the thought. We would ask the teachers to consider the responsibility which rests upon them in distributing broadcast these untruths. We feel tempted to devote a whole page to copies of one set of testimonials, leaving out name of recipient,

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 5-6, 1882.

THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

To-morrow (Tuesday), the Parliamentary Session of 1882 will begin, to the great relief of the public mind and to the clear advantage of political discussion. The Message in which the Queen will communicate to the two Houses in general terms the policy of the Government can hardly be expected to dispel lingering doubts, or to raise novel questions. It has rarely happened that the course of events has so plainly marked out the main lines of Ministerial conduct. For weeks and even months past it has been made widely known that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues intend, before proceeding with any further legislative reforms, to take in hand the improvement of the rules of the House of Commons. The measures to the enactment of which the improved machinery is to be in the first instance applied, have also been designated, not only in Ministerial speeches during the recess, but by the history of former efforts and of reiterated pledges. Moreover, the imperious necessities of time and space exclude from the scope of Ministerial policy some projects of the highest importance and of extreme complexity, with which it would be impossible to deal in a Session partially devoted to other objects. The work which it will be practicable to undertake when the reform of the Parliamentary rules has been carried—as, it is one shape or another, it certainly will be—is not without its own value, but it cannot be thought likely to promote feverish excitement. A Bankruptcy Bill, a County Government Bill, a Municipal Bill of London Bill will not make the coming Session a memorable and stirring one. It is, however, satisfactory that political parties should come down to the level of the popular wishes, which at present are decidedly turning in favour of domestic legislation of a sober and steadily progressive character. It is evident that, in spite of the sensational attractions of foreign affairs and the incessant pressure of Irish agitation, the mass of the English people are unwilling that safe and moderate progress at home should be balked or delayed. Public men, whatever their party connexions or their position in political life, ought to be forward to show that they are ready to foster and to co-operate with this movement of popular feeling. It is not to the interest of any party or any statesman that the labours of Parliament should be doomed to failure. The late Government, as well as the present, had to complain that many of its best efforts were defeated through the operation of causes which a judicious reform of procedure would mitigate, if not remove. We may assume that the Ministerial policy, so far as it is concerned with legislative measures, must be confined within the general limits we have pointed out. If there be still room for speculative ingenuity, it is in regard to those questions which politicians and the country at large would alike be glad to be able to banish from their thoughts, but which return and insist on obtaining a hearing and an answer. It is not difficult to conjecture what the Government will say in the Royal Message about the reform of the Parliamentary rules and the ordinary measures of the Session. We enter upon a far more doubtful matter when we inquire what is to be said about the state of Ireland, and still more, about the complication in Egypt. The former of these two perplexing questions will, no doubt, be fully discussed and examined in the debates upon the Address. But there must be some general account of the situation in the Speech from the Throne. The operation and the effects of the Land Act have now become subject to legitimate criticism, and the time is at hand when either the Government must show that lawlessness in its various forms has been put down, or must make a dangerous confession of failure. We believe, from what we learn from various sources, that the Government will be able to point with hope and encouragement to many symptoms of an improving state of things. But it will not be pretended that the struggle is over and the danger at an end. The recent prosecutions at the Winter Assizes have revealed the extent and the vigour of the organisation which the Land League appears to have taken over, in commercial phrase, "as a going concern," from Fenianism. The "no rent" epidemic, expelled from some districts by the strict enforcement of legal process, breaks out anew in others. The Government, however, has begun to make the lawless feel that the game they are playing is a perilous one. We are thoroughly convinced that if the Irish Executive is allowed to hold firmly and courageously to the course entered upon four months ago, the masses in Ireland will rally to the cause of law and order, which is, after all, their own. We have no reason to doubt that Mr. Forster will persevere with and will carry through the task which has been imposed upon him by events. The clamour of sentimentalists, in Parliament or out of it, as well as the appeals of those politicians who have to cast an eye sideways at the Irish vote in their constituencies, ought not for a moment to be allowed to interfere with what Liberal and Conservative statesmen have united in declaring to be the paramount duty of a civilised State. The condition of foreign affairs in general will

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The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Sunday:—

It is obvious to everybody at all conversants with Egyptian official that the new Ministry is the Ministry not of Parliament, but of Arabi Bey. The President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior is Arabi's old official chief, Mahmoud Pacha Sami. He was Minister of War and Marine in the late Cabinet; Arabi Bey, being so to speak, Under-Secretary of State in the same department. Arabi Bey himself now takes the office lately held by Mahmoud Pacha Sami, and has thus virtually secured the official as well as the practical control of the army. The Minister of Finance, Ali Pacha Sadik, was the native administrator of the Egyptian Government Railway. One of the most interesting personages in the new Cabinet is Mahmoud Bey Fezehy, who is chief of the Department of Public Works. He is a man of proved capacity, and it may be remembered that he was the military engineer who constructed the fortifications at Varna during the Russo-Turkish war. The other Ministers, Mustapha Pacha Fezehy (Public Inspector), and Hassan Pacha Cheref (Religious Domains), are not so well known to fame.

The new Ministers visited the Khedive today. They thanked his Highness for their appointments in very respectful terms. Perhaps the most significant demonstration was that made later on in the day. Then upwards of six hundred officers of all grades in the Army, went to his Highness's Palace to express their gratitude for appointing the present Cabinet. They declared that, while recognising the suzerainty of the Sultan, they remained faithful and devoted to the Khedive and to Egypt. They were banded together by one common aim—namely, to defend the Khedive against all enemies of their country, the welfare of which they were determined to make the guiding motive of their action. When the officers left, the Khedive's guards turned out of their barracks, and openly, not to say noisily, manifested their delight at the manner in which his Highness had accepted the Cabinet of the Army and Arabi Bey. They sent up great shouts of "Vive le Khédive." These facts indicate what would probably have occurred if the Highness had persisted in retaining Cherif Pacha in power. The Khedive, it is said, insisted on all hands, had no alternative but to accept Cherif's resignation in order to maintain public tranquillity, alay public excitement and anxiety, and stave off a military revolt. The demeanour of his Highness in this trying crisis has been calm and dignified, and has produced a good impression here.

His Highness fully recognises the suzerainty of Turkey, and is now, as he has ever been, a loyal vassal of the Sultan's. At the same time, he is fully resolved to keep his engagements to England, France, and the European Powers faithfully and to the letter. He earnestly hopes that the Powers will all exercise a little patience and moderation until the new Ministry have had a fair chance of proving their mettle, and until they have shown what course they mean to pursue. Precipitate action by one or more of the Powers would, he considers, have just now results, and would lead to grave complications, beyond the power of man to ward off. The new Cabinet acquiesces in the decision of the Chamber of Deputies with reference to the voting of the Budget, in spite of the opposition offered by England and France. Some arrangement or compromise is, however, thought to be devised which, while meeting the demands of all, will save the amount of all parties concerned. But, in any event, it is generally considered that England and France would show wisdom in, at least, giving the new Ministry a fair trial, and in refraining from needlessly embarrassing them at the outset of their career.

INDIA.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday:—

Government has resolved to appoint an Imperial Commission on education consisting of 21 members representing different provinces of India and classes of the community. Each local government will specially select a high educational officer on behalf of its department of public instruction, and one or more natives of rank or intellectual eminence will also attend from each province. The president will be the Honourable Mr. Hunter, who will represent in a special manner the Supreme Government and the views of the Viceroy with regard to the reforms under consideration. Among the distinguished Indians will be the Honourable Maharajah Jetha, the Honourable T. Gore, the Honourable Bhunder Mohun and others, on behalf of the Hindoos; and the Honourable Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadur, on behalf of the Mussulmans.

Among the educational officers will be Mr. Croft, Director of Public Instruction in Bengal; Professor Deighton, of Agra; Mr. Jacob, Bombay; and Mr. Browning, Director of Public Instruction in the Central Provinces. The Missionary Societies will be strongly represented by Mr. Blackett, Anglican, principal of the Church Missionary Society Institution; Mr. Miller, Presbyterian, principal of the Christian College, Madras; and a Roman Catholic not yet nominated. The duties of the Commission will be, first, to inquire into the action of the educational despatches from 1854 to 1868 and how far the educational policy prescribed by the Home Government has been carried out by the various local administrations; secondly, to inquire more especially how far primary education has been introduced under those despatches and to suggest means whereby vernacular education can be made more universal; thirdly, to devise means for this extension at a minimum cost to the State by setting free, if possible, funds which are now devoted to higher education, and by substituting a grant in aid of the system for direct Government support; fourthly, to offer every encouragement to native gentlemen to establish and support schools on a grant in aid of the system; fifthly, to ascertain how far it will be possible for the Government to hand over under proper guarantees its own schools and colleges to bodies of native gentlemen who will undertake to manage them as aided institutions; sixthly, to endeavour to supplement the results thus obtained by enlisting the municipalities in the work of primary education and by a large extension of the vernacular schools at the municipal cost and under municipal control. The development of indigenous schools will also form a special subject of inquiry. The Commission will also be directed to make suggestions as to the better training of teachers, the improvement of the present system of instruction, the extension of female education, and as to a more intelligent analysis of statistical returns on a national basis, also as to the preparation of a great series of text-books for use in the schools throughout India. The first meeting will be held on Friday. The Commission will sit till April, when the members will disperse to their own districts till the next cold season. In the interval, Mr. Hunter, as president, will visit the different provincial governments with a view to studying the systems locally at work, collecting information on specific points, and making such local inquiries as the Commission may deem necessary.

Orders have been issued carrying into effect the policy announced in the last Budget with reference to the sum of a million and a half to be provided annually as insurance against famine. This sum, instead of being considered as a surplus receipt for subsequent appropriation, will be treated as a fixed portion of the normal expenditure of each year. Relief of actual famine will be a first charge on the whole amount. Protective works will be the next charge, but only to the extent of three quarters of a million, or such portion thereof as may remain after the relief of actual famine. The remaining three-quarters will be assigned to the reparation of the damage done by the flood.

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A Commission for the reduction of the debt will be appointed, consisting of one high Government official as *ex-officio* member, with one European and one native non-official member. It will have no independent authority, but will perform consultative and auditing functions only.

The Budget is expected early in March. It seems certain that Major Baring will announce a handsome surplus, and the abolition of the duties on gray piece-goods as well as the retention, if not extension, of the licence-tax. Such a result will not be considered satisfactory. The licence-tax is almost as detested as the income-tax, and if the Government cannot afford to lose both that impost and the cotton duties, then the general verdict of the debt will be that these duties should be retained some time longer and the licence-tax swept away. Many authorities, too, hold the opinion that the abolition of the export duty on rice is a matter of more urgency than the relaxation of the import duties.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY AND THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

The representative of the *Central News*, who inspected the works both in France and England for the proposed Channel Tunnel, afterwards had an interview with Sir Garnet Wolseley. He thus reports the conversation:—

"Do you consider the military danger to be such a nature that we ought to suspend attempting to secure the commercial and social advantages that would arise from the use of the tunnel?"

Sir Garnet: "Yes, I do; but it is begging the question to assume that the use of a tunnel would secure additional commercial and social advantages. Any tunnel is objectionable on account of the extreme danger it would entail in England. Hitherto our island position has protected us, and the sheet of water around has served to ward off danger, for upon it our navy could float and defend our coasts from attack. Against an advance through a tunnel the fleet would be powerless. A tunnel once made, its approaches on this side might be seized by a *coup de main* by an enemy, who could at the same time take care to get at once into his possession all the electrical apparatus planned to destroy the tunnel or render it useless for a time. Such a seizure on this side might be carried out by a force of two thousand men any night, who could suddenly pounce upon the approaches on this side. If that were done by some bold leader it would at once place us at the mercy of the enemy, for in four or five hours afterwards twenty thousand men could be sent through the tunnel to their support, and before daybreak in the morning the tunnel would have completely passed into the enemy's possession, and could be used as a *tête de pont* from which a great army could set forth against London, and with the seizure of London ends the existence of England's power."

"Admitting, Sir Garnet, that there may be danger from a military point of view, and that the insurance of safety would be increased in consequence of the construction of a tunnel, would not, on the other hand, he decrease in an equal, if not even greater, degree by the improved and extended intercourse between the two nations?"

Sir Garnet: "I don't think the tunnel would in the least degree increase our commercial relations, and I don't believe, looking to what has taken place in the history of the world within the last twenty or thirty years, it would lessen the risk of war breaking out. One of the bloodiest wars that has ever taken place was between the North and South in the United States. Yet between these two there was the widest communication by roads, railways, water, etc. The same physical conditions existed with reference to France and Germany, between which there was a vast intercourse before the outbreak of the late Franco-German war. Many Germans were domiciled in France, and there were German waiters in nearly every hotel in France, but that did not stop the outbreak of war. The Duke of Wellington, Captain Bigge, the Emperor's suite, consisted of Mme. de Arcos, Mme. de Corvisart, the Due de Bassano, and Baron de Corvisart. Captain Bigge attended the Empress to London. The Hon. Lady Biddulph had the honour of dining with the Queen yesterday.

by road through Windsor Great Park and the Long Walk to Windsor Castle, which was safely reached about twenty minutes past two o'clock. The Duke and Duchess alighted at the quadrangle entrance to the Lancaster Tower, whence her Royal Highness was conveyed to her apartments. The Duchess was only confined on the 15th of January, three weeks ago on Sunday. Their Royal Highnesses may probably stay at Windsor Castle till the return of the Queen.

Sir Garnet: "That is answered by the fact that the danger really to be feared is an attack in the nature of a surprise whilst the country is in a state of profound peace. I regard such an attack as a very possible thing. The history of our capture of the Danish fleet, and our capture of Copenhagen in 1807, illustrate what I mean, and that the danger is a real one."

"Would you, as a military commander, send troops into a tunnel of that kind, knowing what means might be taken by our enemies for their destruction?"

Sir Garnet: "I would not send a large army into a tunnel until I had possession of it. Once in possession of it an army could quickly and safely be sent through the tunnel. Now, as to obtaining possession of such a tunnel, any Government possessing a large army would think nothing of risking the lives of two thousand men to secure the control of it. Everything connected with the tunnel would be as well known to others as to ourselves. The sources of danger are in a measure shown when it is recollected that the tunnel would be a company affair, and that the scrip or stock might almost entirely be in French hands, and that they could profitably do as they chose with the working arrangements. Under these circumstances it would be impossible to keep secret from the people who worked the railway the devices for the destruction of the tunnel, to prevent a surprise being effected that would render worthless all our precautions. The troops that took possession of the Dover end of the tunnel would simultaneously take control of all the approaches to the tunnel, and the port of Dover would be closed to all traffic."

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 5-6, 1882.

THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

To-morrow (Tuesday), the Parliamentary Session of 1882 will begin, to the great relief of the public mind and to the clear advantage of political discussion. The Message in which the Queen will communicate to the two Houses in general terms the policy of the Government can hardly be expected to dissipate lingering doubts, or to raise novel questions. It has rarely happened that the course of events has so plainly marked out the main lines of Ministerial conduct. For weeks and even months past it has been made widely known that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues intend, before proceeding with any further legislative reforms, to take in hand the improvement of the rules of the House of Commons. The measures to the enactment of which the improved machinery is to be in the first instance applied, have also been designated, not only Ministerial speeches during the recess, but by the history of former efforts and of reiterated pledges. Moreover, the imperious necessities of time and space exclude from the scope of Ministerial policy some projects of the highest importance and of extreme complexity, with which it would be impossible to deal in a Session partially devoted to other objects. The work which it will be practicable to undertake when the reform of the Parliamentary rules has been carried—as, in it one shape or another, it certainly will be—is not without its own value, but it cannot be thought likely to promote feverish excitement. A Bankrupt Bill, a County Government Bill, a Municipality of London Bill will not make the coming Session a memorable and stirring one. It is, however, satisfactory that political parties should come down to the level of the popular wishes, which at present are decidedly turning in favour of domestic legislation of a sober and steadily progressive character. It is evident, that, in spite of the sensational attractions of foreign affairs and the incessant pressure of Irish agitation, the mass of the English people are unwilling that safe and moderate progress at home should be balked or delayed. Public men, whatever their party connexions or their position in political life, ought to be forward to show that they are ready to foster and to co-operate with this movement of popular feeling. It is not to the interest of any party or any statesman that the labours of Parliament should be doomed to sterility. The late Government, as well as the present, had to complain that many of its best efforts were defeated through the operation of causes which a judicious reform of procedure would mitigate, if not remove. We may assume that the Ministerial policy, so far as it is concerned with legislative measures, must be confined within the general limits we have pointed out. If there be still room for speculative ingenuity, it is in regard to those questions which politicians and the country at large would alike be glad to be able to banish from their thoughts, but which return and insist on obtaining a hearing and an answer. It is not difficult to conjecture what the Government will say in the Royal Message about the reform of the Parliamentary rules and the ordinary measures of the Session. We enter upon a far more doubtful matter when we inquire what is to be said about the state of Ireland, and, still more, about the complication in Egypt. The former of these two perplexing questions will, no doubt, be fully discussed and examined in the debates upon the Address. But there must be some general account of the situation in the Speech from the Throne. The operation and the effects of the Land Act have now become subject to legitimate criticism, and the time is at hand when either the Government must show that lawlessness in its various forms has been put down, or must make a dangerous confession of failure. We believe, from what we learn from various sources, that the Government will be able to point with hope and encouragement to many symptoms of an improving state of things. But it will not be contended that the struggle is over and the danger at an end. The recent prosecutions at the Winter Assizes have revealed the extent and the vigour of the organization which the Land League appears to have taken over, in commercial phrase, "as a going concern," from Fenianism. The "no rent" epidemic, expelled from some districts by the strict enforcement of legal process, breaks out anew in others. The Government, however, has begun to make the lawless feel that the game they are playing is a perilous one. 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THE FOG DEMON.

The fog from which we were unusually free during the early part of this winter now envelop London day after day in the dreaded murky cloud, and might even seem to have gained strength and persistency from the delay in appearing. Certainly they have presented in the last fortnight even more than the customary phenomena:—We have been visited by red fog and white fog, fog and grey; sometimes it covers almost total darkness throughout the day, obscuring the suburbs and has forced the worst, at others, the dense mist has come and departed with complete suddenness. Unfortunately none of the bad results we have accustomed to look for have been absent. Terrible railway disasters, loss of life by drowning in rivers and canals, and other mishaps owing to the same cause have been frequent. The minor misfortunes of being driven about hopelessly for hours by a bewildered coachman, or of wandering on foot for a similar time completely lost in the most familiar places, many dwellers in the metropolis have learned to regard with considerable equanimity. The immediate dangers and misadventures caused by fogs are, however, by no means the most mischievous of these. Were it possible to obtain statistics of the number of lives shortened through inhaling the smoke-laden mist the revelation would be startling. Even those in perfect health are sensible of the oppression in breathing produced by those particles of unconsumed coal, whilst on those affected or predisposed to any maladies of the throat or chest the injurious consequences are incalculable. Many persons find it almost impossible to endure the foggy season in London, owing to which, even in the suburbs, the more delicate cage-birds drop and plants perish. Our public buildings, our monuments, our houses, furniture and dress, all are tarnished or destroyed by this mischievous agency, which is all the more intolerable because science has demonstrated that it is removable. Between the white fog of winter and the black and the terrible cloud of dense darkness which is our frequent visitor there exists this great difference: the one is free from, the other is blended with and largely composed of, smoke.—*Morning Post*.

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and France would show wisdom in, at least, giving the new Ministry a fair trial, and in refraining from needlessly embarrassing them at the outset of their career.

INDIA.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday:—

Government has resolved to appoint an Imperial Commission on education, consisting of 21 members representing different provinces of India and classes of the community. Each local government will specially select a high educational officer on behalf of its department of public instruction, and one or more natives of rank or intellectual eminence will also attend from each province. The president will be the Honourable Mr. Hunter, who will preside in a special manner. Supreme Government will have the views of the Viceroy with regard to the reforms under consideration. Among the distinguished natives will be the Honourable Maharajah Jotindra Mohun Tajore, the Honourable Bhunderoo Moo, and others, on behalf of the Hindus; and the Honourable Syed Ahmed Khan Bahadur, on behalf of the Mussulmans. Among the educational officers will be Mr. Croft, Director of Public Instruction in Bengal; Professor Deighton, of Agra; Mr. Jacob, Bombay; and Mr. Browning, Inspector of Public Instruction in the Central Provinces.

The Missionary Societies will be strongly represented by Mr. Blackett, Anglican, principal of the Church Missionary Society Institution; Mr. Miller, Presbyterian, principal of the Christian College; and a Roman Catholic not yet nominated. The duties of the Commission will be, first, to inquire into the action of the educational despatches from 1854 to 1868 and how far the educational policy prescribed by the Home Government has been carried out by the various local administrations; secondly, to inquire more especially how far primary education has been given to the people under those vernaculars and to suggest means whereby more universal; thirdly, to devise means for this extension at a minimum cost to the State by setting free, if possible, funds which are now devoted to higher education, and by substituting a grant in aid of the system for direct Government support; fourthly, to offer every encouragement to native gentlemen to establish and support schools and to grant aid of the system; fifthly, to ascertain how far it will be possible for the Government to hand over under proper guarantees its own schools and colleges to bodies of native gentlemen who will undertake to manage them as aided institutions; sixthly, to endeavour to supplement the results thus obtained by enlisting the municipalities in the work of primary education and by a large extension of the vernacular schools at the municipal cost and under municipal control. The development of indigenous schools will also form a special subject of inquiry. The Commission will also be directed to make suggestions as to the better training of teachers, the improvement of the present system of inspection, the extension of female education, and as to a more intelligent system of statistical returns on a uniform basis; also as to the preparation of a great series of texts for the schools throughout India. The first meeting will be held on Friday. The Commission will sit till April, when the members will disperse to their own duties till the next cold season. In the interval, Mr. Hunter, as president, will visit the different provincial governments locally at work, collecting information on specific points, and making such local inquiries as the Commission may deem necessary.

Orders have been issued carrying into effect the policy announced in the last Budget with reference to the sum of a million and a half to be provided annually as insurance against famine. This sum, instead of being appropriated, will be treated as a fixed portion of the normal expenditure of each year. Relief of actual famine will be a fixed charge on the whole amount. Protective works will be the next charge, but only to the extent of three quarters of a million, or such portion thereof as may remain after the relief of actual famine. The remaining three-quarters of a million will be assigned to the reduction of the debt.

A Commission for the reduction of the debt will be appointed, consisting of one high Government official as *ex-officio* member, with one European and one native non-official member. It will have no independent authority, but will perform consultative and auditing functions only.

The Budget is expected early in March. It seems certain that Major Baring will announce a handsome surplus and the reduction of the duties on gray piece-goods, as well as the retention, if not extension, of the licence-tax. Such a result will not be considered satisfactory. The licence-tax is almost as detested as the income-tax, and if the Government cannot afford to lose both that impost and the cotton duties, then the general verdict in this country will be that these duties should be retained some time longer and the licence-tax swept away. Many authorities, too, hold the opinion that the abolition of the export duty on rice is a matter of more urgency than the relaxation of the import duties.

SIR GARNET WOLSELEY AND THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

The representative of the *Central News*, who inspected the works both in France and England for the proposed Channel Tunnel, afterwards had an interview with Sir Garnet Wolseley. He thus reports the conversation:—

"Do you consider the military danger to be of such a nature that we ought to suspend attempting to secure the commercial and social advantages that would arise from the use of the tunnel?"

Sir Garnet: "Yes, I do; but it is begging the question to assume that the use of a tunnel would secure additional commercial and social advantages. Any tunnel is objectionable on account of the extreme danger it would entail upon England. Hitherto our insular position has protected us, and the sheet of water around has served to ward off, for upon our navy could float and defend, the coasts from attack. Against an advance the tunnel fleet would be powerless.

A tunnel once made, its approaches on this side might be seized by a *group de main* army, who could then come to get at once into his possession all the electrical apparatus planned to destroy the tunnel or render it useless for a time. Such a seizure on this side might be carried out by a force of two thousand men any night, who could suddenly pounce upon the approaches on this side. If that were done by some bold leader it would at once place us at the mercy of the enemy, for in four or five hours afterwards twenty thousand men could be sent through the tunnel to their support, and before daybreak in the morning the tunnel would have completely passed into the enemy's possession, and could be used as a *téte de pont* from which a great army could set forth against London, and with the seizure of London ends the existence of England's power."

"Admitting, Sir Garnet, that there may be danger from a military point of view, and that the insurance of safety would be increased in consequence of the construction of a tunnel as suggested by Admiral Lord Dunsany, would it not, on the other hand, be disastrous to the improved and extended intercourse between the two nations?"

Sir Garnet: "I don't think the tunnel would in the least degree increase our commercial relations, and I don't believe, look-

ing to what has taken place in the history of the world within the last twenty or thirty years, it would lessen the risk of war breaking out. One of the bloodiest wars that has ever taken place was between the North and South in the United States. Yet between these two there was the widest communication by roads, railways, water, etc. fault which its composer felt deeply in after life and grandly stoned for in his gigantic *Minstrelsy*. The performances now referred to were generally very good; the chorus-singing was most excellent; some few exceptions pointed in the songs being consequent on the singers' comparative lack of familiarity with it than with the other music of the evening. In the solo music Miss A. Williams and Mr. Maas particularly distinguished themselves; the lady in the *Seraph's* air, and the gentleman in the opening recitative and air of Beethoven's work, and both in incidental passages of the Mass—the bass solos having been assigned to Mr. H. E. Thorndike. That the important orchestral accessories were effectively rendered it is scarcely necessary to say.

The London Ballad Concerts are still pursuing their course, under the active direction of Mr. John Bowley, whose sixteenth season is now very well advanced, eight performances having taken place. At that of last week a varied selection was effectively rendered, including several new songs—Blumenthal's "Sunshine and Rain" (by Mme. Antoinette Sterling); Macrone's "Come to me, O ye children" by Miss M. Davies; Behrend's "The Old Barge" (by Miss Damian); A. Gorring Thomas's "Serenade" (by Mr. E. Lloyd); and Marzial's "My love is come" (by Mr. Oswald). Besides these several familiar pieces were contributed by the vocalists named, Mme. Sherrington, Mr. Santley, and Mr. Maybrick; and some songs were well rendered by the members of the South London Choral Association. As usual, everything was applauded, and several pieces were encored. Mr. Sidney Naylor was again, as heretofore, an efficient conductor.

The Philharmonic Society will enter on its seventh season next Thursday evening, when the programme will include the grandest of all symphonic works, the ninth and last symphony of Beethoven, with the chorale finale comprising a setting of Schiller's "Ode to Joy."—*Daily News*.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART.

The *Century* magazine has secured the right to bring out in serial form an unpublished diary of the late Mr. Carlyle. As we read some of it in manuscript about two months ago, we can testify to its merits. It will account for a tour in Ireland in 1814, written in the author's raciest style, and containing full observations on such points of national character as are of the highest interest to the present political juncture. The MS., which is an autograph, was given by him to a friend who is now dead, who preserved it, as a kind of secret treasure, so carefully that its existence was long unknown. Mr. Froude had never heard of it; it has lately passed through his hands, and he has been so deeply impressed with its importance that he has volunteered to write an introduction to it when it ultimately appears in book form, which it will do next October, when it will be published, along with other master of importance, by Messrs. Sampson Low and Co. The diary opens with a description of Carlyle's going on board, on the 30th of June, 1814, a steamer in the Thames bound for Dublin. The present Irish Secretary was one of his companions in part, at least, of his tour.

The *Antiquary* for this month contains a very interesting paper on "St. Valentine's Day," by Professor John Hales, in which the customs observed on the anniversary of the death of St. Valentine, Priest and Martyr, who was supposed to have been beaten with clubs, and afterwards beheaded at Rome on the 14th of February, 270, are described. A new edition of the "Bibliography of Ruskin," corrected and augmented to the present time, is in the press, and will be issued shortly by Mr. Elliot Stock. The ancient manor house of Burwell, Lincolnshire, where Sarah Jennings, afterwards the famous Duchess of Marlborough, was born, will be offered for sale in the course of a few months.

Mr. Macmillan and Co. will publish immediately a work by the late Lord Justice Jameson on "The British in India," edited by his daughter, Mrs. Schwabe. Messrs. Longmans will publish this spring two more volumes of Mr. Lecky's "History of England in the Eighteenth Century," covering the period from 1760 to 1784; and also the first portion of Mr. Froude's "Life of Carlyle," being a history of the first forty years of his life, 1795-1835.—*Academy*.

Still more sixteen editions. A sixteen People's Edition of "Tom Brown's School-days" will be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co. on the 6th of March. It will contain all the illustrations by Messrs. Arthur Hughes and Sydney P. Hall which appear in the ordinary editions of the book. Messrs. Bradbury, Agnew and Co. will issue next week for sixpence "Mrs. Caulfield's Curtains Lectures," by Douglas Jerrold, with sixty illustrations by Charles Keene. Carefulness in printing will be the feature of this edition, so that the cuts shall be as well brought up as in books of higher price.

Lord Houghton and Mr. Arthur Severn are expected to visit Rome about the middle of the month, to be present at the removal of the remains of the late Joseph Severn from the grave in which they were placed at the time of his death, and their reinterment next to that of his friend John Keats, whom he accompanied to Rome, and by whose side he always expressed a desire to find his final resting-place.

The demand for dainty little waistcoat-pocket volumes seems to be daily increasing, and the supply keeps pace with it. Messrs. Griffith and Farrar, who have just issued "The Churchman's Daily Text-Book" in four parts, will publish "Queen Mab; or, Goblins from Shakspeare," arranged and edited by C. W. Academy.

The well-known books—"Philosophy in Sport," was used by its author, Dr. Paris, as the vehicle for satire on his acquaintance at Penzance. Mr. G. A. Boase has written a curious key to this book, which appears in the February number of the *Bibliographer*. Among others, it contains an amusing anecdote of Mr. Tremereen, who had a small congregation, but on one occasion when a stranger was announced to preach, a good congregation assembled. As the clergyman was going into the pulpit Mr. Tremereen pulled him back, saying he would preach them one of his own sermons instead.

Miss Owens Blackburne is about to publish immediately a novel dealing with Irish politics. The title is "The Heart of Erin."

Dr. A. C. Burnell, says the *Academy*, the eminent Sanskrit scholar (and more than a Sanskrit scholar, as our readers know), has finally decided to retire from the Madras Civil Service. His health will not permit him to return to India, even for the three years that would qualify him for a full pension.

Fairholz, in his "Costume of England," mentions some curious instances of canes belonging to Henry VIII. "A cane garnished with silver and gilt, with an astronomic upon it. A cane garnished with gold and silver, with a dial, with a pair of twisters, and a pair of compasses of gold; and a foot-rule of gold, a knife and a file of gold, with a whetsome tip and gold."

Notes and Queries published extracts from a little book published in 1705, which throws light upon the character of William III, as a husband. After mention of his courtship, marriage solemnities, etc

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NICE 1—15, QUAI MASSENA.

Great Britain.
LONDON, FEBRUARY 7—8, 1882.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There is now, we fear, no issue but for Northampton to remain content with only half its representation in the House of Commons until an Act of Parliament has been passed clearly conferring the right of affirmation on persons in Mr. Bradlaugh's position. This is no doubt the true solution of the whole question, and it had been firmly grasped at the outset if it is certain that the time actually occupied would have been much more profitably spent. An offer was made on Tuesday on behalf of Mr. Bradlaugh by his colleague in the representation of Northampton, which, if it could have been accepted, might sooner or later provide a way out of the difficulty. Mr. Labouchere put the case of his colleague in a temperate and sensible fashion, and proposed that Sir Stafford Northcote's motion should be withdrawn on condition that a bill should forthwith be introduced for dealing with the subject. It is obvious, however, as Sir S. Northcote pointed out, that no such direct bargain could be entered into, although he spoke with some encouragement of the method of proceeding by legislation. It is clear enough that this is now the only possible solution. We cannot but regret, as we have always regretted, that the question was ever raised. It has been a perplexity to every one and brought credit to none. Even on Tuesday the Government seems to have learnt little wisdom from its former experience in the matter. If, instead of raising a doubtful speculative issue Mr. Gladstone had treated the whole matter broadly on its merits, had dwelt on the scandal of leaving such a pitiful question open for so long, on the mischievous interruption to public business, and on the undeserved and impolitic prominence given to Mr. Bradlaugh and his opinions—if he had made an appeal to the Opposition on grounds of this kind he would at least have occupied a stronger and more dignified position, even though the decision of the House remained unchanged. It is, indeed, very much to be regretted that any question in the nature of a religious test should have been raised over the oath of allegiance, though it must be admitted that Mr. Bradlaugh himself is mainly responsible for raising it. The oath was never imposed directly for religious purposes, as were former oaths which excluded Catholics. The case of a person wholly devoid of such a belief as would give a meaning to the theistic invocation of the oath was probably not contemplated when the formula was drawn up. It was meant for a declaration of allegiance which would be acceptable to the conscience of all men. Now that it has proved to be a religious test the only logical course is to legalise the alternative of affirmation. There are probably few members of the House of Commons, except Mr. Newdegate, who attach any superior validity to a pro-missary oath as compared with an affirmation to the same effect. But as some persons may object to take the oath, and as the House of Commons may refuse to administer it to others, it is clearly desirable to permit the alternative in all such cases. This is the plain issue now before the House, but in the present condition of public business it may be some time yet before it takes a legislative shape. Mr. Bradlaugh, if he is well-advised, will await the result with such patience as he can command. Catholics and Jews had to wait a long time for their emancipation, and the constituency of Northampton must console itself with the reflection that the City of London itself had to wait eleven years before one of its representatives was enabled to take his seat. —Times.

THE NEW RULES OF PROCEDURE.
The following is the text of the New Rules of Procedure which were laid on the Table of the House of Commons by Mr. Gladstone on Tuesday evening:—

I.—PROCEDURE.

PUTTING THE QUESTION.

1. That when it shall appear to Mr. Speaker, or to the Chairman of a Committee of the whole House, during any debate, to be the evident sense of the House, or of the Committee, that the question be now put, he may so inform the House; and, if a Motion be made "That the question be now put," Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman, shall forthwith put such question; and, if the same be decided the affirmative, the question under discussion shall be put forthwith: provided that the question shall not be decided in the affirmative, if a division be taken, unless it shall appear to have been supported by more than two hundred members, or to have been opposed by less than forty members.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

BUSINESS.

2. That no Motion for the Adjournment of the House shall be made, except by leave of the House, before the Orders of the Day, or Notices of Motion have been entered upon.

DEBATES ON MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

3. That when a motion is made for the adjournment of a debate, or of the House, during any debate, or that the Chairman of a Committee, do report progress, or do leave the chair, the debate thereupon shall be strictly confined to the matter of such motion; and no member having spoken to any such motion shall be entitled to move or second any similar motion during the same debate or during the same sitting of the Committee.

DIVISIONS.

4. That when, before a Division, the decision of Mr. Speaker, or of the Chairman of a Committee, that the "Ayes" or "Noes" have it, is challenged, Mr. Speaker, or Chairman, may call upon the Members challenging it to rise in their places; and if they do not exceed twenty, he may forthwith declare the determination of the House, or of the Committee.

IRRELEVANCY OR REPETITION.

5. That Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman of a Committee, may call the attention of the House, or of the Committee, to continued irrelevance, or tedious repetition on the part of a Member; and may direct the Member to discontinue his speech.

POSTPONEMENT OF PREAMBLE.

6. That in committee on a Bill, the Preamble do stand postponed until after the consideration of the clauses, without question put.

CHAIRMAN TO LEAVE THE CHAIR WITHOUT QUESTION.

7. That when the Chairman of a Committee has been ordered to make a report to the House, he shall leave the chair, without question put.

HALF-PAST TWELVE O'CLOCK RULE.

8. To add to the Standing Order of 18 Feb., 1879, the following words:—"But this Rule shall not apply to the Motion for leave to bring in a Bill, nor to any Bill which has passed through Committee."

ORDER IN DEBATE.

9. To amend the Standing Order of 23 Feb., 1880, as follows:—"That whenever any member shall have been named by the Speaker, or by the Chairman of a Committee of the whole House, as disregarding the authority of the Chair, or abusing the rights of the House, by persistently and wilfully obstructing the business of the House, or otherwise, if the offence has been committed in the House, the Speaker shall forthwith put a Motion being made, put the same Question in a similar way, and if the motion is carried shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee, and report the circumstances to the House, and the Speaker shall thereupon put the same Question, without amendment, adjournment, or debate, as if the offence has been committed in a Committee of the whole House." The Chairman shall, on a Motion being made, put the same Question in a similar way, and if the motion is carried shall forthwith suspend the proceedings of the Committee, and report the circumstances to the House, and the Speaker shall thereupon put the same Question, without amendment, adjournment, or debate, as if the offence has been committed in the House itself. If any member be suspended under this order, his suspension on the first occasion shall continue for a week, on the second occasion for a month, and on the third occasion for the remainder of the Session, provided always, that nothing in the Resolutions of the Committee of the whole House shall be construed to deprive the House of the power of proceeding against any member, according to ancient usages."

10. That if Mr. Speaker, or the Chairman of a Committee of the whole House, shall be

Bradlaugh to suggest to the House of Commons the way in which he could most conveniently to himself be relieved of the consequences of his own act. Yet it does follow that the Government were justified in ignoring, as they did, Mr. Bradlaugh's alternative. It would seem, from the tranquil manner in which he vanished from the scene on Tuesday, that he has no wish to provoke a contest with the House. Mr. Bradlaugh did nothing more than remind the Government of what last Session they had indicated their willingness to do. Let them, he said, in effect, introduce and carry a measure enabling all members to substitute at will an Affirmation for the Oath, and he would be content. He would not even ask that such a Bill should be retrospective in its operation. If the House would only pass it, he would apply for the Chiltern Hundreds, and at once submit himself to the judgment of his Constituents. Whatever of arrogance may be detected in such a suggestion, there is a certain honesty about it, and it deserved at least the recognition of the Prime Minister.

The *Daily News* observes:—The majority of Tuesdays would have voted what they did, no matter how clearly the case might have been made out against them. Mr. Gleig left on "The Mill on the Floss," tied his cravat on a principle higher than that of personal comfort. The Opposition adjusted their action all through the Bradlaugh controversy on some principle higher, we suppose, than that of mere public policy or political dignity. Tuesdays debate and division settled nothing. Much the same is to be said, although not in quite the same sense, of Mr. Gray's motion concerning the arrest of Irish members and the possible infringement of Parliamentary privilege. Nothing could come of the discussion in such a form. The matter will all have to be discussed over again. Unquestionably it ought to be discussed. Mr. Gladstone said so himself emphatically on Tuesday night, in a speech full of quiet dignity and self-command. But it soon became clear as Mr. Gray went on in "The Mill on the Floss," that it could not be profitably debated, or fully debated at all, as a mere question of privilege. The strict and proper limits of such a debate would not allow the House to enter on the only parts of the controversy which are of real moment, or which indeed are really in dispute. Therefore, while we recognise with Mr. Gladstone the importance of the subject, we cannot see how any personal right, political claim, or public interest could have been served by the necessarily imperfect and unsatisfactory discussion of Tuesday night.

THE GARTER MISSION.

The Dresden correspondent of the Times telegraphed on Tuesday:—

No slight fitter was caused here some time ago when it became known that Queen Victoria had signified to King Albert of Saxony her gracious intention to make him a Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter. The Germans love the Monarchical idea—Prince Bismarck has said that each of them, if he could, would keep a King of his own—and the subjects of the lesser States are, therefore, glad of every incident which reminds them that though the Empire has higher than had been supposed in this country, it would have prevented it from giving in to the English. The nobles selected, and shall have power to add and discharge members from time to time provided the number of eighty be not exceeded.

COMMITTEE AND REPORT OF BILL.

3. That all bills comprised in each of the said classes shall be committed to one of the Standing Committees, unless the House shall otherwise order; and when reported to the House shall be proceeded with as if they had been reported from a committee of the whole House.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 7—8, 1882.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

There is now, we fear, no issue but for Northampton to remain content with only half its representation in the House of Commons until an Act of Parliament has been passed clearly conferring the right of affirmation on persons in Mr. Bradlaugh's position. This is no doubt the true solution of the whole question, and if it had been firmly grasped at the outset it is probable that far less time would have been wasted in unseemly and undignified wrangles over Mr. Bradlaugh, while it is certain that the time actually occupied would have been much more profitably spent.

An offer was made on Tuesday on behalf of Mr. Bradlaugh by his colleague in the representation of Northampton, which, if it could have been accepted, might sooner or later provide a way out of the difficulty. Mr. Labouchere put the case of his colleague in a temperate and sensible fashion, and proposed that Sir Stafford Northcote's motion should be withdrawn on condition that a bill should forthwith be introduced for dealing with the subject. It is obvious, however, as Sir S. Northcote pointed out, that no such direct bargain could be entered into, although he spoke with some encouragement of the method of proceeding by legislation. It is clear enough that this is now the only possible solution. We cannot but regret, as we have always regretted, that the question was ever raised. It has been a perplexity to every one and brought credit to none. Even on Tuesday the Government seems to have learnt little wisdom from its former experience in the matter. If, instead of raising a doubtful speculative issue Mr. Gladstone had treated the whole matter broadly on its merits, had dwelt on the scandal of leaving such a pitiful question open for so long, on the mischievous interruption to public business, and on the undeserved and impolitic prominence given to Mr. Bradlaugh and his opinions—if he had made an appeal to the Opposition on grounds of this kind he would at least have occupied a stronger and more dignified position, even though the decision of the House remained unchanged. It is, indeed, very much to be regretted that any question in the nature of a religious test should have been raised over the oath of allegiance, though it must be admitted that Mr. Bradlaugh himself is mainly responsible for raising it. The oath was never imposed directly for religious purposes, as were former oaths which excluded Catholics. The case of a person wholly devoid of such a belief as would give a meaning to the theistic invocation of the oath was probably not contemplated when the formula was drawn up. It was meant for a declaration of allegiance which would be acceptable to the conscience of all men. Now that it has proved to operate as a religious test the only logical course is to legalise the alternative of affirmation. There are probably few members of the House of Commons, except Mr. Newdegate, who attach any superior validity to a pro-missory oath as compared with an affirmation to the same effect. But as some persons may object to take the oath, and as the House of Commons may refuse to administer it to others, it is clearly desirable to permit the alternative in all such cases. This is the plain issue now before the House, but in the present condition of public business it may be some time yet before it takes a legislative shape.

Mr. Bradlaugh, if he is well-advised, will await the result with such patience as he can command. Catholics and Jews had to wait a long time for their emancipation, and the constituency of Northampton must console itself with the reflection that the City of London itself had to wait eleven years before one of its representatives was elected to seat his. —Times.

In the division on the admission of Mr. Bradlaugh the Conservative ranks were swelled by the adhesion of the Liberals, who voted in a body against the Government. This good service was rewarded by the insertion of some of the Irish members having voted the other way when previously the same resolution was brought before the House.

In the division on Mr. Gray's motion in the House of Commons on Tuesday night the following Liberals and Conservatives voted in the minority:—Mr. M. Cowen, Mr. Storey, Mr. Gourley, Capt. Aylmer, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Dawney, Mr. Cohen, Mr. R. N. Fowler, Mr. Burt, Mr. Collings, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Labouchere.

We understand that report with reference to outrages on the Jews in Russia have been received from the British Consuls at Warsaw and Odessa, and that her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has also made some inquiries into the subject.

We hear that Mr. Gladstone has declined to receive a deputation on the opium question.

BRADLAUGH to suggest to the House of Commons the way in which he could most conveniently to himself be relieved of the consequences of his own act. Yet it does follow that the Government were justified in ignoring, as they did, Mr. Bradlaugh's alternative. It would seem, from the tranquil manner in which he vanished from the scene on Tuesday, that he has no wish to provoke a contest with the House. Mr. Bradlaugh did nothing more than remind the Government of what last Session they had indicated their willingness to do. Let them, he said, in effect, introduce and carry a measure enabling all members to substitute at will an affirmation for the oath, and he would be content. He would not even ask that such a Bill should be retrospective in its operation. If the House would only pass it, he would apply for the Chiltern Hundreds, and at once submit himself to the judgment of his Constituents. Whatever of arrogance may be detected in such a suggestion, there is a certain honesty about it, and it deserved at least the recognition of the Prime Minister.

The *Daily News* observes:—The majority of Tuesday would have voted as they did, no matter how clearly the case might have been made out against them. Mr. Glegg, in "The Mill on the Floss," tied his cravat on a principle higher than that of personal comfort. The opposition adjusted their action all through the Bradlaugh controversy on some principle higher, we suppose, than that of mere public policy or political dignity. Tuesday's debate and division settled nothing. Much the same is to be said, although not in quite the same sense, of Mr. Gray's motion concerning the arrest of Irish members and the possible infringement of Parliamentary privilege. Nothing could come of the discussion in such a form. The matter will all have to be discussed over again. Unquestionably it ought to be discussed. Mr. Gladstone said so himself emphatically on Tuesday night, in a speech full of quiet dignity and self-command. But it soon became clear as Mr. Gray went on that it could not be profitably debated, or fully debated at all, as a mere question of privilege. The strict and proper limits of a debate would not allow the House to enter on the only parts of the controversy which are of real moment, or which indeed are really in dispute. Therefore, while we recognise with Mr. Gladstone the importance of the subject, we cannot see how any personal right, political claim, or public interest could have been served by the necessarily imperfect and unsatisfactory discussion of Tuesday night.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

We understand that Mr. Bradlaugh, whilst determined to press his claim to take the oath, has not made any fixed arrangement for re-appearance in the House.

In the division on the admission of Mr. Bradlaugh the Conservative ranks were swelled by the adhesion of the Liberals, who voted in a body against the Government. This good service was rewarded by the insertion of some of the Irish members having voted the other way when previously the same resolution was brought before the House.

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(FROM THE "STANDARD.")

It is not expected that the debate on the Address will be concluded before Friday.

The Government have not yet decided what course they will take in regard to the Oath question; but it is probable that after the Proviso resolutions are disposed of they will introduce a bill allowing members to affirm.

A pamphlet, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," which was recently issued by the Irish Land Commission, has been suppressed. It is not yet known how many copies were allowed to get into circulation before its true character was discovered. The responsibility for the publication of the pamphlet appears primarily to rest with the Secretary to the Commission, who, however, stated that he sanctioned its being issued on the recommendation of a brother official, and with any knowledge of its contents.

An inquiry has been instituted at the Standard Office in order to ascertain how it was that the brochure was permitted to pass through that department without some intimation as to its character being conveyed to the Chief Commissioners. It is certainly remarkable that a Government department should have made the instrument for disseminating the very words and doctrines of an illegal organization, the leaders of which are at this moment in Kilmainham Gaol.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

OSBORNE, TUESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh and the Hon. Horatio Stopford. This morning her Majesty walked and drove with Princess Beatrice.

The Duchess of Connaught has continued to improve in health ever since her arrival at Windsor Castle.

The Cheshire Hounds met at Marbury village on Tuesday, but to the disappointment of many, the Empress of Austria was not present. After finishing with Sir Watkin's hounds on Monday her Majesty had a couple of hours with the dragoons about Combermere Park, which doubtless somewhat fatigued her, and rendered a day's rest necessary. Had she been out on Tuesday, however, she could not have complained of the sport.

The Marquess of Londonderry was prevented by a family affliction from attending the dinner at the Marquis of Salisbury's on Monday evening, and from being present at the opening of Parliament.

Lord North arrived in town on Tuesday from Han's Hall, Minworth, for the opening of Parliament.

Colonel Hon. W. P. and Lady Emma Talbot and Miss Talbot have arrived at 15, Cromwell-road, for the season.

The Earl of Lonsdale died at a quarter-past one on Wednesday morning at his residence, 14, Carlton House-terrace. Lord Lonsdale was in his twenty-seventh year. He succeeded his father as fourth Earl of Lonsdale in 1876, and in 1878 married Lady Constance Gladys Herbert, sister of the thirteenth Earl of Pembroke. His lordship leaves a daughter, Gladys Mary Juliet, born on April 9, 1881, and is succeeded in his title by his brother Hugh Cecil, who was born on January 25, 1857, and married on June 27, 1878, Lady Grace Cecilia Gordon, sister to the present Marquis of Huntly.

Lord CARLISFORD, while admitting that some of the Irish agitators wanted the separation of Ireland from England, held that the question with which the Government had to deal was not rebellion but rent. The noble lord vindicated at considerable length the working of the Land Act.

Lord DONALDSON made some hostile criticisms on the Act, by which he said, the large majority of the Irish landlords would be greatly crippled.

Lord Wayte argued that a larger staff of Commissioners ought to be appointed to administer the Land Act.

The motion for the Address having been agreed to, their lordships adjourned at 9 o'clock.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

DEBATE ON THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

Parliament was opened by commission at 2 o'clock, with the usual formalities.

The House of Lords, having reassembled at 4, Lords Tweeddale, Reay, Hothfield, and Tweedmouth took the oath and their seats.

At a quarter-past 3, when the business of the evening commenced, Mr. Bradlaugh, the uninvited guest of the House of Commons, and an uninvited attendant of poet

The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duke of Cambridge were in their places on the cross-benches, and the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Teck were present in the Royal gallery. The peersesses

gallantly was almost fully occupied.

Lord FINGAL, in moving the Address in answer to the Queen's Speech, was unusually brief in his comments on the several announcements in the Royal Message. He congratulated the House on the position of our foreign, Indian, and colonial relations, and expressed a hope that the time was approaching when a good understanding would prevail between landlords and tenants in Ireland.

Lord WINLOCK, in seconding the motion, entered rather more into detail than the mover as to the various passages in the Speech from the Throne. He commended the opposition of the Chiltern Hundreds, and expressed a hope that the basis had been laid for a permanently good understanding with the Boers and the natives of the Transvaal. Turning to home matters, he was glad to hail the prospect of local self-government for the counties, and he agreed with her Majesty's Ministers in thinking that the question of the municipal government of London should be dealt with. As to Ireland, he was glad to hear the confident hopes uttered by Lord Fingal, whose knowledge of that country was so much superior to his.

Lord SALISBURY thought that the mover and seconder of the Address had shown much good sense in the brevity of their addresses. No doubt both noble lords had felt that the less said about the statement in the Royal Speech the better. Having highly commended the character of Prince Leopold, the noble marquis intimated that, though they would not press the matter on that occasion, the Opposition looked with anxiety for explanations from her Majesty's Government as to the extension of our interference with Egypt from a financial to a political character. There had been an impression that our interference had assumed a menacing character, but there were now rumours that anything of that kind had been disavowed by her Majesty's Government. He trusted we should go to France in respect of the affairs of Egypt only to such an extent as would leave us no more serious interests in Egypt. We should beware of anything which threatened our route to India while Russia was at the portals of Herat. Ridiculing the passage in the Royal Speech about the effects of the weather on the crops, he asked the Government why they had not gone further and announced that the London fog had been very destructive of furniture. In reference to Ireland, he observed that since the prostration of a great transformation had occurred in Ireland. During the progress of the Land Bill both Houses of Parliament were assured over and over again that the measure would have no detrimental effect on the property of the landlords of Ireland; but the Government had paid no heed to these representations. It was only to such an extent as would leave us no more serious interests in Egypt. We should beware of anything which threatened our route to India while Russia was at the portals of Herat. Ridiculing the passage in the Royal Speech about the effects of the weather on the crops, he asked the Government why they had not gone further and announced that the London fog had been very destructive of furniture. 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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 9—10, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE CLOUTURE.

Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice on Thursday evening that when the Prime Minister brings forward his Resolutions regulating the Procedure of the House he shall oppose the First, embodying the *Closure*. Mr. Marriott, one of the Liberal members for Brighton, has also given notice of an Amendment to the effect that no Rule of Procedure can be considered satisfactory which confers the power of closing the Debate on a bare majority of members. In fact, the more Mr. Gladstone's first "new Rule" is considered, the more the certainty grows that the House of Commons will refuse its assent to it. The whole drift of public opinion is clearly and resolutely against it: it is faintly defended by a few timid Ministerialist journals, and vigorously denounced everywhere else. Nor is there anything in the state of public affairs to warrant so extensive a suppression of the rights and liberties of Parliament as Mr. Gladstone now proposes; for although the difficulties which impede legislation are in themselves a great evil, the endowment of the Ministry with an absolute and despotic authority would be a far greater one, and only to be borne under the pressure of some tremendous national crisis such as was held by the ancient Romans to justify a Dictatorship. To pretend that such an innovation is necessary to ensure a speedier passage of Bankruptcy Bills, or County Board Bills, or Rivers Conservancy Bills, is an outrage on the public common sense. The proposal is nothing less than to confer on the Government of the day the power of terminating Debates exactly when it chooses, by the fiat of a bare majority. The sham conditions by which the proposal is accompanied only make matters worse, because they show that the authors of it are aware of its arbitrary character. When less than forty members oppose the application of the *Closure*, this opposition may be overruled by any majority whatsoever. If thirty-eight are against it, thirty-nine can silence them. It is only when the minority exceeds forty that a show of moderation is introduced by the provision that the majority in that case must number more than two hundred members. Thus, if the minority be forty, the majority must be two hundred and one; but then if the minority be two hundred, the majority need be no larger, for two hundred and one would still be enough. In the same way, two hundred and fifty could silence two hundred and forty-nine; three hundred could silence two hundred and ninety-nine, and that, too, without debate or protest. The limitation imposed is a mere form, which, in so far as it masks the real nature of the rule, only makes it more dangerous. As the Minister will always have the required number at his disposal—for one who has not must very soon cease to be Minister—it is clear that if the Rule is passed, the freedom of speech so long enjoyed by members of the House of Commons will be placed entirely at the mercy of one man: and what is really the final cause of Parliamentary Government will cease to exist. Now, we must remind the country that this particular polity, which it is the boast of Englishmen to have matured, has not been maintained so long for the sake of legislation, but for the sake of liberty. We cannot allow the second to be sacrificed to the first, and at any cost the House of Commons is bound to reject this innovation. It cannot be entertained for a moment. If it were to be adopted there would be very little necessity for the other eleven rules which Mr. Gladstone has added to it. Absolute master of the debates, the leader of the House would arrange business as he pleased, and he would generally be able to bend private members to his will by threatening to stop discussion unless they submitted to his will.—*Standard*.

sufficiently conceivable, however, even to persons who possess Highland castles and villas by the shores of southern England. The complete change of climate supplies a tonic not to be obtained by Britons within the bounds of their own four seas. The change may not be from cold to warmth. On the contrary, it is probable England has during the present remarkable winter enjoyed an average higher temperature than many wintering places in the South of Europe. But the brightness of the sunshine, the clearness of the air, they enjoy are something quite unusual in our beloved island. They are enough in themselves to animate the spirits and excite the mind. They make physical exercise a joy, mere existence a pleasure. There is something to be said with truth against every individual town or village on the south line of the French coast. Cannes and Mentone are dull, and have only lately freed themselves from sanitary suspicion. Nice is not dull, but neither is it safe for invalids, from a climatic point of view, owing to its exposure to cold winds. Monaco is wicked. But whatever their defects as points of residence may be, the enchanting roads which wander from one to the other cause them all to be forgotten. If Monaco be wicked, it is with the wickedness of paradise. Nature has done such wonders there, man has not been able to deface them. On the surface, indeed, he has cooperated with her as far as in lay to produce a perfect result. More lovely gardens are not to be found than those from which the visitor may survey some of the loveliest sea views in Europe. He needs not gamble, though it has been hinted that those guests at the big hotel are most welcome who most risk their luck at the tables. He is provided with admirable reading-rooms and delightful concerts. Under it all squirms the serpent, but a residence of a week or two will not hurt the tenderest conscience. A delightful excursion, not very well-known or often made, is out to the end of the promontory of Antibes. The view thence is exactly the reverse of that from San Carlo. The coast line right and left divides the blue sea from the lovely green shores in curving lines, the vine and olive-clad hills slope gently upwards crowned with their rock-built villages, and behind all rise the snowy Maritime Alps, looking as if they stood there to guard their Italy, which they have not known how to guard. That view is one which remains indelible in the memory. The man who should travel blindfold there and back again from the heart of a London fog, allowed gaze and fix it on his heart for the space of half an hour, would not have paid so dearly for his gain. No, it may not be gained. England is a very good place to go away from in the winter and early spring. It is for English people at any rate [and for some Americans] the best place in the world to live in, but not just at this time of year. What it might be if we consumed our own smoke in another sense than personal consumption of it down our throats is another thing. We in the big towns might then see the sun at other times than in the height of summer, we might know the sky was blue on more exact authority than the assertion of the poets, we might have the nightingales back in London, we might escape the rasping sore throat now threatening to be national and chronic. But even then we should miss much that the sojourner at Mentone will find, and find this year, we trust, in even unusual abundance. The soft refreshing air, the brilliant sunbeams, the vegetation almost tropical in character and luxuriance, the sea bluer, sweeter, calmer than that even which washes our fair Devonshire or Cornwall coasts—all these have a power to soothe and charm peculiar to themselves. Joined to a complete abandonment of work, release from responsibility, and cessation from tedious ceremonial, they will, as is the nation's cordial hope, give the Queen the perfect rest and enjoyment they offer to the open eyes and disengaged mind.—*Daily News*.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "STANDARD")

The Queen has been pleased to signify her intention of conferring upon Lord Carlingford the honour of Knighthood of the Order of St. Patrick, in the room of the late Lord Lurgan.

We believe that a large number of members on the Liberal side of the House object to the Rule regarding the closing of Debate, and that the Government, exerting themselves to reduce the Government to make it less stringent in its character.

Information has been received that Mr. Fottrell, the Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, who was responsible for the issue of the pamphlet to which attention has been drawn in these columns, has resigned his office.

The bills referring to the Channel Tunnel will, we understand, be referred to a Special Committee, partly nominated by the House and partly by the Committee of Selection. It is expected that the Committee will take evidence on the military part of the question.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

In connection with the new rules which Mr. Gladstone will submit to the House of Commons on Monday next, we learn that Mr. Ashton Dilke intends to move that the number of Standing Committees proposed should be increased from two to five, and that the new Committees shall deal respectively with Irish and Scotch questions, and with the Budget. Sir George Campbell has already given notice of a Committee for Scotland, and Mr. Dilley will also probably propose the appointment of a Budget or Financial Committee.

If the House agrees to the Prime Minister's resolution appointing Standing Committees, it is, we believe, intended to find accommodation for them by causing two committees upstairs to be temporarily removed into one by means of a movable partition.

It will be observed that the rules of procedure which Mr. Gladstone has given notice makes no provision for dealing with the modern extension of what is known as the question-hour. It is probable that an attempt will be made to remedy this omission by an amendment.

Another matter left unprovided for is the vexatious counting, which so far as the session has gone has been of nightly occurrence as it was last session. The question of the House will also be called to the minister by an amendment, moved by a private member.

We understand that the Home Secretary does not intend to introduce this session a Water Bill for the metropolis. This will be a matter for consideration after the passing of a measure for the reform of Metropolitan Government.

The President of the Board of Trade will not move for leave to introduce the Bankruptcy Bill till after the new rules of procedure have been disposed of. Nor will any other Ministerial measures in the meantime be advanced.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack shortly before five o'clock.

THE LAND COMMISSION AND THE OATH.

Lord LONGFORD moved for a copy of a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, in explanation of the circumstances in which the pamphlet entitled "How to become the owner of your farm," was printed at the Queen's printing office, Dublin. In doing so he took occasion to condemn some of the notices issued by the Land Commission.

Lord MONCK, from a long knowledge of the Secretary of the Irish Land Commission, his administration's general efficiency in the public service.

Lord CARLINGFORD said there would be no objection to the production of the letter; but a correspondence for which he intended to move would put the House in much fuller possession of all the circumstances relating to the publication of "How to become the owner of your farm."

The motion was agreed to.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The Duke of SOMERSET asked whether the Secretary of State could communicate to the House any recent information relating to the treatment of the Jews in Russia.

Lord GRANVILLE thought it highly necessary to claim for the Government of which he was a member that they sympathised with the law, might be found, and it was needless to say that their sympathy would not be less in a case in which the victims were of the Jewish race; but as to diplomatic interference by us in such a matter, we were precluded from that by the fact that we did not permit such interference by any other Power in reference to British subjects. However, putting aside the question of right, he did not think that anything could be more inexpedient than official interference.

As to private and confidential representations, he was sure that no one in the place of Foreign Minister would omit any suitable opportunity of making them; but public comments on those representations would, of course, entirely change their character. Our consuls had communicated the facts which had come to their knowledge, and he now begged to lay on the table a copy of correspondence connected with those outrages.

Lord SALISBURY concurred with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in thinking that official representations as to these outrages would be of very doubtful utility.

Lord SHATSBURY was of the same opinion; but thought the few words said on the subject that evening would do good in the cause of the oppressed Jews.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

Sir S. J. SEYTON gave notice that when the Prime Minister's Procedure Resolutions were brought forward, he would oppose the *closure* resolution until the others are disposed of, and Mr. Marriott, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

On the same subject, Mr. SEXTON gave notice that before the debate began he would move a "call of the House." Mr. A. Balfour gave notice that he will move to defer the *closure* resolution until the others are disposed of, and Mr. Marriott, from the Liberal benches, gave notice that he will move a counter resolution declaring that no rule will be satisfactory which closes debate by a bare majority.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

In answer to Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. GLADSTONE stated that her Majesty has been pleased to confer the rank of Privy Councillor on Sir H. Robinson, and also to create Sir E. V. G. C. M. G., and to make him a K. C. M. G. In addition to these honours, the dignity of a G. C. M. G. has been accepted by President Brand, subject to the consent of the

Viceroy.

THE OUTRAGES ON THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

In answer to a question from Mr. Sergeant Simon, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government did not think it would be expedient to make any formal representation to the Russian Government in regard to the outrages inflicted on the Jews; and in answer to Sir J. Hay, who suggested the constitutional alternative of dissolution or resignation, he said the Government did not intend to take any steps in regard to the division of Tuesday.

THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on Mr. P. J. Smyth's Home Rule amendment was adjourned on the Address was resumed by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, who spoke on the Law of Dublin, pointing out one of the inconveniences of the present system, and was continued by Mr. T. D. Sullivan, who declared that law and order would never prevail in Ireland until the Irish people made their own laws. Mr. Molloy went into details of the system which the Home Rule party desired to substitute for the present connexion between the two countries, and described the manner in which local affairs would be confined to the Irish Parliament and Imperial matters to the Parliament in London, without impairing the integrity of the Empire. Mr. O'Sullivan maintained that there would be no rest in Ireland until it was converted from a province into a nation.

At this point Mr. P. J. Smyth offered to withdraw his amendment, but the Irish members would not accept this, and he then moved to postpone the debate.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan then expressed his regret at this refusal, said with regard to local self-government in Ireland, the Government, while they had been reluctantly compelled to postpone the measure they had contemplated on the subject, were thoroughly alive to its importance. As to the wider question of a separate Legislature, he remarked that the discussion had revealed great discrepancies between the supporters of the movement as to what its real object was, and he advised them that their very first step must be to make up their minds as to how and by what authority the functions of two Legislatures were to be defined, and local distinguished from Imperial matters.

Mr. HENRY thought that the difficulties would not turn out to be so great as they seemed to be if Mr. Gladstone would give his mind to them; and Mr. O'Donnell remarked that, however formidable the objections of the Royalists might be, they were not of great weight.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan maintained that the Royalists did not involve local self-government for themselves, but to get their share in the government of the English and Scotch.

Mr. Ewart protested that the loyal men in Ireland would maintain the Imperial connexion with their lives, and Mr. Plunket protested against the Prime Minister's invitation to the Irish members to reopen the Home Rule agitation.

Mr. T. D. Sullivan then expressed his regret that the Duke of Connaught had removed on Sunday from Bagshot to Windsor, and that the Princess Royal had followed him.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 11—12, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE'S RESOLUTIONS.

The *Saturday Review* observes:—Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions with reference to the business of the House are unlike the locusts of the Apocalypse in that, whereas the locusts had their sting in the tail, the Resolutions have theirs in the head. There are twelve Resolutions which deal with procedure, and three which deal with Standing Committees, but the first of them, the Resolution which introduces the *closure*, precedes the others in order of importance as much as it does in order of succession. Whatever faults the Resolutions may have they are certainly not milk and water. The first Resolution is obscurely enough worded, but the general intent is sufficiently clear. If carried, it will give the majority for the time being as absolute a power of putting an end to debates as the most ardent opponent of "government by public meeting" can desire. It was not to be supposed that Ministers would care to give this right to a mere accidental majority ; the majority which they wish to invest with it is their own majority. The provision that the motion "that the question be now put" shall not be decided in the affirmative unless it shall appear to have been supported by more than two hundred members, guards them against any risk of this kind. In an ordinary House, when there has been no special whip on either side, and Ministers might conceivably have their own mouths closed by surprise, the *closure* will have no place, for the majority will not be over 200. But whenever the majority consists of more than 200 members—which is equivalent to saying whenever it is a Ministerial majority—the *closure* in its most naked form becomes the rule. A majority of 201 members may absolutely close the mouths of a minority of 200 members. There is no pretence about a three-fourths or a two-thirds majority. A majority of one is all that is required. The remaining Resolutions show very plainly how highly Mr. Gladstone values the *closure*. A long array of precautions which have from time to time been suggested in order to render the *closure* unnecessary are tacked on to the *closure* as though, in comparison with it, they mattered nothing at all.

The *Spectator* has only three criticisms to make on the proposed New Rules of Procedure, which are, in effect, very like those proposed last year by Mr. Dilwyn, and thoroughly wise and sound in their general scope. The first and most important of these criticisms is—that we think the Government mistaken in throwing on the Speaker or Chairman of Committee the initiative in declaring that, in his opinion, the sense of the House is in favour of a division. In our opinion, it would have been better much to give the Speaker or Chairman rather a veto on the proposal of the Leader of the House to the same effect, than the duty of himself moving in the matter. In our opinion, the duty of proposing that the debate should end, is one the responsibility of which ought clearly to rest on the Leader of the House, for this among other reasons, that he alone is fully aware what the pressure of the public business is, and how urgent a decision of the House may be ; and, again, that, if a wrong decision is taken, either upon such evidence as this, or on any other evidence that may be before him, the error committed, if committed by a Minister in the eagerness of administrative duty, would be a much lighter error, and much more excusable, than the same error would be if committed by the Speaker or Chairman, in the interest merely of the dignity and order of the Assembly over which he presides. For this reason, we hold that the Government ought to have the responsibility of proposing the immediate closure of the debate ; indeed, only the Government would usually be in possession of all the reasons why a closure is advisable. Moreover, it seems to us very necessary that the Speaker should regard himself as representing the whole House, and should hold that it is his business rather to restrain the eagerness of the Administration itself for a division if, in his opinion, the case of the minority or minorities has not been properly heard, than to propose a division himself. We would, therefore, give the Speaker the right of refusing to put the House a vote for the closure of debate, while we should greatly hesitate to give him the responsibility of declaring that the sense of the House was clearly favourable to it.

Looking at the question in a broad way, urges the *Statist*, such as becomes all who prefer the efficiency of Parliament to the interest of party, we see no reason why the *closure* should not be adopted. It is admitted upon all hands that Parliament of late has been failing in the estimation of the public ; that the conduct of its business is not good, and that the interests of the country are suffering because it has no time to devote to measures which are useful, but not partisan ; such, for example, as the Criminal Code Bill and the Bankruptcy Bill. We do not deny that at times the *closure* may work injuriously in the hands of a rash or a reactionary Ministry. It may be used to hurry through Parliament Bills which would be condemned were the country given time to consider them. For example, in the case of a disagreement with a foreign State, it is quite possible that some step might be

taken by a Minister having the *closure* at his disposal which would commit the country too far, and leave it no option but war or humiliation ; and so also unpopular measures might be adopted in the same way. But, after all, if a Minister is determined enough, and has such a majority at his disposal as would not shrink from imposing the *closure* to give effect to his views, he would be able to carry his policy without the *closure*. All the *closure* would effect would be to enable him to do more speedily what, under the present system, he would do tediously. As for the suggestion that the vesting of the power in the hands of the Speaker guards it from being likely to be abused, we do not suppose that there is much weight in it. It is much more probable that the Speaker in future will be slow to press the *closure* than that he will be in a hurry. The responsibility will always rest upon him, and until it is urged to do so by the clear will of a decided majority, it is not probable that he will act.

"HOW TO ROB YOUR LANDLORD."

The *Economist* says the new Rules form by far the most vital and momentous element in the Government programme. Unless the principle embodied in the first resolution, which vests the majority of the House the power of controlling the length of its debates, is adopted in one form or another, the promise of useful legislation held out in the Queen's Speech has not a chance of being realised. The matter now rests with the country. Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues were called to power to resume with energy and resolution the suspended work of domestic reform. If the nation is earnest in doing the work to be done, it must show itself equally earnest in demanding the fulfilment of this precedent condition.

THE FRENCH MONEY MARKET.

The prodigious sham imposed on the French money market by the last Bourse settlement is strikingly illustrated by the figures of the last Bank of France return. By one means or other, but chiefly by the aid of the Government, which lent the market nearly £5,000,000, the resources of the public were augmented by over £10,000,000 as compared with the previous week. But preparations for the settlement began in the preceding week, and what it meant to the money market cannot be thoroughly understood unless the figures of a fortnight ago are contrasted with those of last week. Making this comparison, it is found that the private deposits have been run up nearly £15,000,000.

It is hardly possible to imagine what such a sum implies, but it may be said that in England, with our less elastic banking system, such a

ARRIVAL OF REFUGEE JEWS IN ENGLAND.

A large number of Jewish refugees, who had escaped over the Russian frontier, arrived in Liverpool from Hamburg on Friday en route to America. They number two hundred and fifty men and women of the agricultural and artisan class, and ninety-five children and infants, and they leave for New York in the American Line steamer *Illinois*. They were received and attended to in Liverpool by representatives of the Anglo-Jewish Association, and their wants were provided for from the Mansion House Relief Fund. In the course of an interview with a large number of them, they readily gave particulars of the persecutions to which they had been subjected. Names and addresses of those who gave information were taken, and the names of the persons to whom the fortunes of hundreds of thousands of persons have been committed almost without appeal.

THE NEW MEMBER FOR WESTMINSTER.

Lord Algernon Percy, the newly-elected member for Westminster, addressed his constituents in St. James's Hall, on Saturday, when he was enthusiastically received. The Hon. Robert Grimston presided. Lord Algernon Percy said a week ago he had little to hope that some good may come out of the evil perpetrated by the frantic iconoclast of St. Paul's churchyard. Bird's sculptured group representing Queen Anne looking down on four figures at the respective corners of the pedestal, and supposed to symbolise Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, has long been an eyesore to Wren's majestic basilica, and an architectural scandal to the entire metropolis. It is, besides, in a shameful and hopeless state of dilapidation. I earnestly hope that this "sooty and dingy" stone will soon be pulled down by the authorities.

Bird was in great vogue in his day (1667-1731). He worked quickly, boldly, and cheaply, and was in much request for public works. According to Horace Walpole, the performance which first brought Bird into notice was his monument at Westminster to Dr. Busby, the pedagogue (you remember that he whipped Sir Roger de Coverley's grandfather) who would not take off his hat when Charles II. visited Westminster School, lest in the event of his having uncovered, the Westminster boys should be induced to believe that there was a Greater Man in England than Dr. Busby. The means by which Bird arrived at the knowledge of Busby's facial appearance were extremely odd. The "Plagous Orbitalis" of Westminster School had never permitted his picture to be drawn. The moment he was dead his friends had a copy in plaster taken from his face, and thence a drawing in crayons, from which White engraved his print, and Bird carved his image." A somewhat circumlocutory process.

I dined, deliberately and with malice aforethought, with the Master, Wardens, and Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors at their noble old Hall in Threadneedle-street. I went thither with a special eye towards the recommendations of the National Thrift Society, as formulated by Dr. Benjamin Richardson, to the effect that we are bound to eat and drink "thrifly" by partaking of the simplest diet, by not drinking of any such sausages or made dishes, and by wholly abstaining from any sweetened beverages. I was hungry, so I had been consuming a plateful of turtle, a slice of roast mutton, and four Brussels sprouts. Likewise I ventured upon one glass of dry champagne and half a bottle of Apollinaris. This to some may seem comparatively moderate; but, according to Dr. Richardson's showing, I must have sinned grievously against "thrifliness," first by eating that plateful of turtle, and next by drinking the glass of dry champagne. And surely plain pump water would have been "thriflier" than the Apollinaris.

The Court of the Merchant Taylors have, fortunately, a great many more things to think of besides the graceful dispensation of the sumptuous hospitality; and I was enabled to bring away from the hall in Threadneedle-street something else besides the bill of fare. This something else was the Rules and Regulations of the Royal Hospital for Ladies, established, some ten years since exclusively at the cost and charges of the Guild, at Bognor, in Sussex. The preamble tranquilly recites that "this Home is established by the Merchant Taylors' Company of the Fraternity of St. John Baptist, for God's glory, and for the benefit of their suffering fellow-creatures. It is intended for the wives, widows, or daughters of gentle men, who, recovering from sickness, or suffering from the effects of overwork, require rest and sea air to restore them to health. The funds for the maintenance of this charity are entirely provided by the company; the ladies are gratuitously boarded and lodged during a specified time; free railfares are given to and from Bognor for them; and I believe I can assure you that there is room in the house for more lady convalescents, and that the Clerk of the Company is ready to receive the names of properly-recommended applicants."—G. A. S. in the *Illustrated London News*.

tenderly-written love-tale, called "A Story of a Railway Journey," by Lady Lindsay, of Balcarres. The ground traversed by the lovers in the charming tale was the ground I had just been over myself; and I confess that in daily life my imaginative spirit had not quite discovered any element of love in the episodes of a railway journey. That was left for Lady Lindsay to do.

But, long before her Ladyship was born, I remember when there were no railways in Italy at all; when there was no gas in Rome; when the Bible and Murray's Handbooks were impartially confiscated at the Pontifical Custom-house; and when Italy herself was contemptuously styled by statesmen of the Congress of Vienna and the Holy Alliance type "a geographical expression." A tunnel under Mont Cenis ! A tunnel beneath St. Gotthard ! A railway across the Brenner ! What visionaries that madmen would be vented to mock such schemes when the vast engineering and judicial experience as Nelson and Metternich were dominant in Europe !

It is to be hoped that some good may come out of the evil perpetrated by the frantic iconoclast of St. Paul's churchyard. Bird's

sculptured group representing Queen Anne looking down on four figures at the respective corners of the pedestal, and supposed to symbolise Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, has long been an eyesore to Wren's majestic basilica, and an architectural scandal to the entire metropolis. It is, besides, in a shameful and hopeless state of dilapidation. I earnestly hope that this "sooty and dingy" stone will soon be pulled down by the authorities.

position which recently compelled him to leave his engagements at Leicester. His lordship is, however, still prohibited by his medical advisers from preaching and public speaking for the present.

Sir John and Lady Lister Kaye have arrived at Thomas's Hotel, Berkeley-square.

Vice-Chancellor Sir James Bacon attained his 84th year on Saturday, having been born on February 11, 1798. He is the oldest judge on the English bench.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL SCHEME.

The *Saturday Review* maintains that it is hardly necessary to discuss in detail the issues of a project which is simply preposterous as soon as those issues are clearly perceived.

No sneers at alarmists, no demonstration, however elaborate, of engineering ways and means, will do away with the fact that a tunnel would be a more or less probable source of danger. The admitted existence of this danger means more than the mere remote possibility of a terrible catastrophe.

It means the near, and indeed immediate, risk of large unremunerative outlay, of frequent panics, of impaired commercial and financial stability.

It means the risk of unnecessary entanglements in international difficulties.

It means the risk of a vast expenditure.

It means the risk of a terrible catastrophe.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 12—13, 1882.

WEAK POINTS OF THE CLOUTURE.

It has been the uniform custom of English Ministers, when the procedure of the House of Commons has been in question, to take the leaders of the Opposition into council and to obtain for any new rules the sanction of both parties. Mr. Bright upbraided Lord Beaconsfield's Government in 1878 for entering the European Conference with shoted guns. It is with a parade of force that the Ministry are about to lay before Parliament the most remarkable innovations in procedure that have ever been proposed. When the project of the *closure* began to assume a practical form in Ministerial speeches during the autumn, more than one Minister intimated that it would be made a question of confidence. Mr. Gladstone, however, did not commit himself to any such position, nor was it conceivable that a statesman of his long experience and his Parliamentary training would be ready to withdraw from the free judgment of the House of Commons proposals deeply affecting the character and the future of the representative system. This, however, must be so, if the Prime Minister's scheme of *closure* is to be forced upon the House of Commons by the menace of a dissolution. The doubts and anxieties which are gathering will not be extinguished, though they may be overborne. It is, indeed, manifest that the changes portended by the proposed plan for closing debates must be far wider in their operation than is admitted by their apologists. It is assumed that should the resolution pass, we shall have to deal simply with the existing state of things modified by the *closure*, under the control of the present Speaker and the present leader of the House. But this is a period of transition which must soon come to an end. It may be confidently anticipated that Sir Henry Brand will use whatever powers may be intrusted to him with scrupulous impartiality and in harmony with the traditions of his office. But he has held the Speakership for over ten years, and his powers have been severely taxed by the fatigues of the present stormy Parliament. It is probable that not later than the beginning of next Session the House of Commons will have to elect a new Speaker. Nor is this all. Mr. Gladstone will complete during the current Session the fiftieth year of his Parliamentary service, and his retirement from the active conduct of affairs in the Lower House cannot be long delayed. We are close upon a time when Parliament, if submitted to the new rule and governed in its spirit, will find no anchorage in the experience and the traditions either of the leader of the House or of the Speaker. To what, then, are we to look forward? The moral effect of the proposed scheme of *closure*—especially if it be carried, as it can only be carried, by coercing the House with the threat of a penal dissolution—will make itself felt in the first instance in the election of the new Speaker. It is impossible that the spirit of domination, encouraged and sharpened by the spirit of resistance, should not give a strong party bias to the choice of the majority. A Speaker so chosen is too likely to be in accord with the temper of those who elect him, and to act in the Chair as a *Président de Combat*. He will understand that he is chosen to give effect to the rule of *closure* in the letter and in the spirit. The disappearance of Mr. Gladstone from the Treasury Bench will leave the Liberal party unguided by any predominant authority, and it is plain enough that power will tend to be concentrated in the "machine." Mr. Auberon Herbert drew an amusing picture some time ago of the manner in which the political "hectograph" manufactures, reproduces, and multiplies "public opinion." The demand for the *closure* would be reverberated, whenever it suited the Government of the day, from a hundred organs, inspired by local caucuses, and set going by wire from Westminster or Birmingham. Such a system would inspire no confidence and would be met with the most obstinate resistance. The bitterest party passions would be let loose. Moderate men would be forced to give up the conduct of the Opposition and every Parliamentary struggle would become an internece battle without quarter and without truce. Even in the present Session, while so many moderating influences are still present, it is difficult to see how, for the most limited and temporary purposes, the new rule could be effectively put in force. If it were to be agreed upon in accordance with Parliamentary comity between the leaders of both parties the Opposition would not be able to refuse to act up to its spirit and to join in closing debate when the question at issue had been excessively discussed and the continuation of the debate was becoming a public injury. But, coerced and outvoted, the Conservatives will feel in every case that they are acting under duress and menace and that they are under no obligation to the triumphant and overbearing majority. Many dissatisfied Liberals, whether they vote against the *closure* or not, will be influenced in the same way. They will be disposed to show the Speaker as often as possible and as long as possible that the "evident sense" of the House is not in favour of closing debate. It is, indeed, most doubtful whether, under the new rule, the Speaker could in practice be able

to raise the question of *closure* at all, except by straining the language of the resolution in a party sense. It would be certainly a forced interpretation to construe the evident sense of the House as the evident wish of the majority; yet the rule plainly allows this to be done and, according to its advocates, intends it to be done.

THE INSURRECTION IN ARABIA.

The present insurrection in the Arabian province of Yemen threatens to assume serious proportions, and to prove the cause of some trouble and embarrassment to the Turkish Government. A few days ago it was hoped that the worst was over, and that the rising would be promptly suppressed; but the latest news is to the effect that the disaffection has spread beyond the limits of the Vilayet of Yemen, and broken out among the tribes of the Hejaz, between Mecca and Medina. The latter city is garrisoned by only a small force, which is said to be virtually blockaded. Nothing can be done towards the restoration of order, it is admitted, until the arrival of large reinforcements from Turkey, and even the four battalions and guns sent ten days ago will hardly suffice to do more than free Medina from the presence of those who are now menacing it. Although the danger at Medina is urgent, that arising from the defiant attitude of the tribes of Yemen is in reality the more serious. It is also the recurrence of an oft-encountered peril which has at times tasked the strength of the Ottoman Empire so greatly that the Porte has more than once given up the idea of successfully dealing with it. Yemen is the South-west Province of Arabia, and includes within its limits the city of Mocha. The inhabitants are among the most warlike of the Arab tribes, and they have always aspired to maintain their independence of the Sultan, partly on account of their disbelief in his claims to represent the Caliphate, and partly because they preferred a life of unfettered liberty in their own mountainous home. In the year 1635 they emancipated themselves from the Turkish yoke, and were ruled for nearly two centuries and a half by their own Sheikhs. The Turks were obliged to satisfy themselves during that long period with the military occupation of the three Holy Cities, but the caravans of pilgrims from Jeddah to Mecca had repeatedly to fight their way through marauding bands in order to visit the Prophet's Shrine. The establishment of British power at Aden, followed up by the occupation of Perim, and the construction of the Suez Canal, aroused considerable alarm in the minds of the Sultan's advisers as to the security of their hold on the three cities, which alone made the decrees of the Ottoman Sultan pass current throughout the world of Islam. This anxiety might not, perhaps, have led to action on the part of the Porte; but, at this very conjuncture, an Arab Chief committed an outrage that could not be overlooked or pardoned. The Emir of Asir, a district north of Yemen, marched south and seized the harbour of Hodeidah, and thus isolated the small garrison stationed at Mocha. An army was at once sent from Constantinople to punish the offender; and his own territory was rapidly overrun and subjected. Glad was so good an excuse, the Porte then ordered its troops to march into the southern district of Yemen, and to reduce it to obedience. Ghazi Mukhtar, then a lieutenant general, was entrusted with the task, and, despite the valour of the Arabs, the strength of their forts, and the inclemency of the climate, he was completely successful. Within twelve months of his landing at Hodeidah, Yemen was again reduced to the condition of a province of the Sultan, but the expedition involved the sacrifice of four thousand Turkish soldiers. The origin of the present insurrection is not clearly ascertained, but the natives were, no doubt, greatly encouraged to make an attempt to re-assert their independence by the large withdrawal of Turkish troops that took place at the time of the war with Russia. Nor are the objects they have before them much better known, although it is possible that the impulse which has stirred them into action comes from the Nejd Chief, who during these last few years has been gathering into his hands the nucleus of a considerable power.—*Standard*.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Sunday night:—

Although the semi-official papers have taken great trouble of late to deny the statements previously made that the friendly relations between Germany and Russia have been threatened, still reports of an alarming character have been circulated here during the last two days. It is stated that differences between the diplomatic corps between Berlin and Vienna and between Germany and Russia are irreconcilable. I have been assured from fairly good quarters that, as far as Germany is concerned, these reports are not true. Still, as a daily reader of the German Press and a diligent follower of the politics of the day, military and otherwise, I have no doubt that there is something in the air which smells most unpleasantly of gunpowder. The Germans of course want peace; but should troubles break out, they consider themselves certain of assistance from Austria. This may appear a rash statement to make, but it is nevertheless true. Ever since Prince Bismarck's visit to Vienna, Austria has been taken in tow by Germany and the German press. Any offence which the Russians may give to Austria rebounded with double force on Germany. The Berlin press publishes articles against Russia which come day by day more important. It is due to the meeting of the Empresses of Danzig last autumn in particular that the Russian member grave apprehensions are felt to his recovery.

The death of Charlotte Hon. Lady Grey, occurred on Sunday afternoon at the venerable lady's house in Seaford-place, at the age of 95. The deceased lady was the only daughter of the late Sir Charles des Veux, first baronet, by Mary Anne, third daughter of the Very Rev. Arthur Chapman, Dean of Cluny. General Hon. Sir Henry George Grey, G.C.B., and G.C.H., second son of the first Earl Grey, the eminent statesman, and Willan are in constant attendance.

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NICE—15, QUAI MASSENA.

Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 12-13, 1882.

WEAK POINTS OF THE CLOTURE.

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But this is a period of transition which must soon come to an end. It may be confidently anticipated that Sir Henry Brand will use whatever powers may be intrusted to him with scrupulous impartiality and in harmony with the traditions of his office. But he has held the Speakership for over ten years, and his powers have been severely taxed by the fatigue of the present stormy Parliament. It is probable that not later than the beginning of next Session the House of Commons will have to elect a new Speaker. Nor is this all. Mr. Gladstone will complete during the current Session the fiftieth year of his Parliamentary service, and his retirement from the active conduct of affairs in the Lower House cannot be long delayed. We are close upon a time when Parliament, if subjected to the new rule and governed in its spirit, will find no anchorage in the experience and the traditions either of the leader of the House or the Speaker. To what, then, are we to look forward? The moral effect of the proposed scheme of *closure*—especially if it be carried, as it can only be carried, by coercing the House with the threat of penal dissolution—will make itself felt in the first instance in the election of the new Speaker. It is impossible that the spirit of domination, encountered and sharpened by the spirit of resistance, should not give a strong party bias to the choice of the majority. A Speaker so chosen is too likely to be in accord with the temper of those who elect him, and to act in the Chair as a *President de Combat*. He will understand that he is chosen to give effect to the rule of *closure* in the letter and in the spirit. The disappearance of Mr. Gladstone from the Treasury Bench will leave the Liberal party ungoverned by any predominant authority, and it is plain enough that power will tend to be concentrated in the "machine." Mr. Auberon Herbert drew an amusing picture some time ago of the manner in which the political "hectograph" manufactures, reproduces, and multiplies "public opinion." The demand for the *closure* would be reverberated, whenever it suited the Government of the day, from a hundred organs, inspired by local caucuses, and set going by wire from Westminster or Birmingham. Such a system would inspire no confidence and would be met with the most obstinate resistance. The bitterest party passions would be let loose. Moderate men would be forced to give up the conduct of the Opposition and every Parliamentary struggle would become an internecine battle without quarter and without truce. Even in the present Session, while so many moderating influences are still present, it is difficult to see how, for the most limited and temporary purposes, the new rule could be effectively put in force. 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to raise the question of *closure* at all, except by straining the language of the resolution in a party sense. It would be certainly a forced interpretation to construe the evident sense of the House as the evident wish of the majority; yet the rule plainly allows this to be done and, according to its advocates, intends it to be done.

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EGYPT.

It does not at all surprise us to read in a Havas telegram that "a complete relaxation of feeling has taken place as regards the Egyptian question since the accession of the new French Minister of Foreign Affairs and the change which has followed in the attitude of the English Government." A state of "tension" naturally terminates when one end of the cord gives way; and to those who are not interested in its holding fast, this no doubt represents an "improvement in the situation." In that sense, but in that sense only, the Egyptian situation has undoubtedly improved. Everything, in fact, now points to the conclusion that the "overtures made by the Western Powers with a view to a European understanding on the subject of contingencies in Egypt" will have speedy results, and that the control of the country will pass out of the hands of both France and England into those of Europe at large. Nor is there anything astonishing in the satisfaction with which this result is in many quarters regarded. Nearly every European Power has something to gain by it. To most of these Powers it will for the first time give a voice and influence in Egyptian affairs. Germany, in particular, would like nothing better than to convert Egypt into another Belgium, under a Prince who could be changed at any time, and with the door left open for any amount of future bargaining. Even France would gain something by an arrangement which would avert Turkish intervention and its aggravation of French difficulties in North Africa. The one State which has everything to lose and nothing to gain by the internationalization is that one whose greed and judicious Government will have been mainly instrumental in bringing it about. Meanwhile it is manifestly becoming desirable in the interests of European residents in Egypt that the Egyptian soldiery should not be left much longer in the position of masters of the situation. The local newspapers abroad alarmingly report of gross outrages committed by the military and police on Europeans, and followed, not only by no redress, but, as a rule, by further insult or inconvenience to the victims. A British subject resident in

Alexandria was the other night brutally beaten by a party of soldiers, and afterwards arrested and taken to the police station, where he was detained more than four hours, and only at last set free on condition of signing a paper whereby he undertook not to prosecute his assailants. Other stories of military and police violence are given in the Egyptian journal from which we take the above; and in a letter now before us it is stated by an English official of important position in Alexandria that the lives of our countrymen are not safe in Egypt at the present time, "the soldiers having been taught that the English Government will not go beyond a 'strong protest,' or '(what they apparently regard as something even less formidable)' a 'Joint Note,' whatever may happen." There is, adds the writer, "no force of any kind that can be used to maintain the law or ensure the punishment of a native for any injury inflicted by him on a European; while a box on the ears given to a young Arab thief by an English shopman brings upon the latter a crowd of natives eager to avenge their countryman.—*St. James's Gazette*.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphed on Sunday night:—

Although the semi-official papers have taken great trouble of late to deny the statements previously made that the friendly relations between Germany and Russia have been threatened, still reports of an alarming character have been circulated here during the last two days. It is stated that difficulties of a diplomatic nature have occurred between Germany and Russia and Austria. I have been assured from fairly good authorities that far as Germany is concerned, these reports are not true. Still, as a daily reader of the German Press and a diligent follower of the politics of the day, military and otherwise, I have no doubt that there is something in the air which smells most unpleasantly of gunpowder. The Germans of course want peace; but should troubles break out, they consider themselves certain of assistance from Austria. This may appear a rash statement to make, but it is nevertheless true. Even since Prince Bismarck's visit to Vienna, Austria has been taken in tow by Germany and the German press. Any offence which the Russians may give to Austria rebounds with double force on Germany. The British papers, however, are not so sanguine. One Berlin paper, writing on this subject, says that Marshal Molkoff stated not long ago in Parliament that Germany must be armed for the next 50 years. These words are as fresh as ever to-day in the public mind, and although Gen. Scobeleff's speech has been disapproved by the Russian Government, still it has no more forgotten here than the late unscrupulous attacks which the Russian press seems fit to indulge in against Germany and Austria particularly.

MOVEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* telegraphed on Sunday says:—

Only two items of Afghan news have been officially issued during the past week—namely, that the Amir is said to have ordered the collection at Candahar of the balance of the revenue for the current year, amounting to ten lakhs; and that, owing to the arrest of the Ghilzai Khan at Cabul, orders have been despatched to Candahar for the disarming and disbanding of the Indari Ghilzai regiment, 1,000 strong, and two regiments have been sent from Cabul for the purpose.

The *Civil and Military Gazette*, a Lahore paper, publishes a report which, if true, points to serious complications at Herat. It is that the Amir is said to have ordered the collection at Candahar of the balance of the revenue for the current year, amounting to ten lakhs; and that, owing to the arrest of the Ghilzai Khan at Cabul, orders have been despatched to Candahar for the disarming and disbanding of the Indari Ghilzai regiment, 1,000 strong, and two regiments have been sent from Cabul for the purpose.

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THE FAIRINGS BY AN ADVENTURESS.

A Birmingham correspondent, writing on Monday respecting the Fearnaught, says:—There is no more remarkable feature in this extraordinary case than the credulity which some people still exhibit as to the identity of the woman. The police state that it is almost impossible to persuade persons who knew Fearnaught that she is not Lord Arthur Clinton. It is now proved beyond all doubt that the prisoner gave birth to a female child some years ago, and this child is still living. On further overhauling the prisoner's letters to-day one was found addressed to her by Miss Ward, Winson-green Lunatic Asylum. This is the young woman who was courted by the prisoner and became insane in finding out the deception practised upon her. The letter commences: "My dear friend," and the writer proceeds: "I earnestly do hope you are getting better, and improving daily. You certainly must realize yourself, and not continue as you are now." The letter also says: "I am not well, neither have I been so for the last eighteen months. Sometimes I am taken seriously ill, lose all feeling in my left side, and my knees utterly fail me. Still I must not waver at it, as I am now turned forty-one years of age; I seem to fear a sudden death; please God it may not be my fate." In another letter addressed to Mrs. Ward, the mother of the young woman, the prisoner writes:—"It seems to me one by one my loved ones are going," and adds, "God's will, not ours, be done." In another letter to Mrs. Ward she refers to Miss Ward's insanity, and says: "I am sure if Jennie had gone out more for a walk than she did it would have been better for her. I do not rule, by further insult or inconvenience to the victims. A British subject resident in

or more of the most skillful doctors to inspect her case for my sake I will do so." In a letter addressed to a person in Birmingham, she says:—"Our poor clergyman, Mr. Bellamy, died suddenly last Saturday at his residence in London, and was very sorry for him yet, need not sorrow for it is not a sorrow without hope. He shall, I hope, see me again in the world to come, but we shall not see him in this world, or hear his voice in preaching. May our Saviour have our dear good minister at his own blessed right side in everlasting glory! He was good, and his works will live, though he is dead and no more."

Upon being interviewed at Liverpool, on Monday, Mrs. Furneaux, mother of the adventurer, expressed the greatest disgust at her daughter's extraordinary imposture, of which she was the victim. At the arrest, she had not the slightest knowledge. Last Friday she wrote to Lord Coleridge, asking when the affair would be settled, and received the following reply, which she produced, and which bears on the seal the Lord Chief Justice's crest:—"St. Vincent Rocks Hotel, Clifton, Feb. 9, 1882.—Madam—I am sorry for your trouble, but I have no means of interfering, nor have I any acquaintance with the business of your daughter. A letter was sent to me from a person who said he held a paper from me promising to pay him a large amount of money. As I had nothing whatever to do with him, and had never signed a paper, I simply enclosed the letter to the Birmingham police, and that is all I know of the matter.—Your obedient servant, Mrs. Furneaux also gave the following interesting narrative:—My maiden name was Sarah Harriet Butler, and I am the daughter of the late Lieutenant John Hutchinson Butler, of the 22d Regiment. My grandfather was son of the Hon. John Butler, brother of the Earl of Lansdowne. I am niece of General Bowes, who was my mother's brother, and who left my mother an annuity while she lived. The annuity was received for some time from her nephew, the Rev. — Bowes, of Taunton; afterwards from Mr. Holroyd, manager of the Exeter Bank; and subsequently from Mr. Coleridge; but whether it is the present Lord Chief Justice I cannot say. My husband was, from 1835 to 1839, in the Royal Engineers, and we quarrelled with his father, and joined the rebellion; he remained four years. Then he became a member of the Wolverhampton Police Force, but left after ten months' service. This greatly annoyed all my relations, as also did my marriage with him. When my mother died in 1858, and the annuity ceased, my daughter told me that we were about to come into possession of a large amount of property in my mother's right; and until she was taken into custody I never dreamt that she was not speaking the truth. I all along thought that the letters she was in the habit of showing me from Lord Coleridge were genuine. I have been as great a dupe of my daughter as any of the victims. I should say she is an enemy to herself, and a disgrace to me. She never passed a man in my presence. I wrote to Mr. Gedding, of Birmingham, the sole prisoner, on different occasions, asking him to let me know what was owing to him so that I might communicate with the proper authority—meaning by the "proper authority" Lord Coleridge.

The further the investigation proceeds, the more startling does the career of the Liverpool and Birmingham adventures appear. The frauds, as already discovered, exceed £15,500. It is believed that the woman has a large amount of the proceeds of her marvelous frauds invested, and great efforts are being made to ascertain the places where the money has been placed. So far as the investigation of the case has proceeded, nothing which can give any clue has been found out; but the police state that several weeks will be required to read through the mass of correspondence found in the boxes of the adventures. One result of the investigation of the correspondence is that the police have had so far to justify Goering as to cause the further opposition will be offered to any application for his release on bail. His statement that he and his relatives have been ruined by their confidence in the impostor finds ample corroboration in their piteous letters found in the possession of the female prisoner at Liverpool, and his release on bail will probably be speedily followed by his restoration to liberty and his exoneration from all complicity with the pensioner frauds. The charges of conspiracy will therefore fall to the ground, and Furneaux will be prosecuted for obtaining money by fraud, the graver aspects of this extraordinary case, namely, forgery and perjury, being emphasized, in order that she may be dealt with at the County Assizes, instead of at the ordinary Sessions for the Borough.

FAIRINGS.

Poor Lord Londsdale, known to the outside world chiefly for his imprudences, his follies, and his want of self-control, will leave a worse reputation behind him than he deserved. His early education—or rather want of it—was the source of all his troubles, but his natural qualities were many and good. Whatever may be said, he was a lovable man, who, being weak and failing into bad habits, became in some respects unreliable. He had good abilities too, and the diary of some of his crimes which I have seen, and eradicated which would appear in these volumes, showed great power of observation and an incalculable power of wit, which am very sorry for him. His life, which recently showed renewed promise, was broken and embittered; he did much that was distinctly blameable; yet he was not a bad, but a good man; only weak, which no man can be and remain good.

The Empress of Austria, on her arrival at Combermere Abbey, found her horses in excellent condition. This was not the case last year, when a great many of them had sore backs. The management of the stables is entirely under the control of Captain Rivers Bulkeley, who pilots the Empress. There are 39 horses, all but four English or Irish. Twelve are for the Empress's special use; three of these are "foreigners."

At a country house the other day, when the ladies went bad, the gentlemen all came down in smoking suits, with the exception of one who fell ill, who was in his ordinary evening clothes. To him a lively jest was made: "You are a smoking suit?" If you come down again to the smoking-room in his usual dress. The sportsman then said: "I told you—I gave you fair warning—I should do something to you;" and then, without further ado, he proceeded to take out a penknife and to slit up the sleeves and back of the coat and each leg of the trousers. The young fellow took it very quietly, and when the sportsman had quite done, said: "Well, I hope you're happy. You have cut up your own dress suit."

The following is strange but true:—The Sheriffs of the City of London were invited to the dinner given at the Star and Garter at Richmond on Thursday night in honour of the Richmond Hospital. That distinguished body accepted the invitation conditionally upon their being placed in seats "suitable for their friends and others."

Poor William Palliser! Many will regret his untimely death, though however his bad state of health for some months past had somewhat prepared his friends for the sad event. He was a most amiable and, when young, a very handsome man. Possessed of great ability and a versatile creative genius, he was rather out of place in regimental life, and, indeed, his mind was so absorbed by

his profession for more than forty years in

the Royal Academy exhibition, may be seen by their friends and others. The artists are to pay half-price, that is 15 gu

Galignani's Messenger.

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THE LATEST PHASE OF THE EGYPTIAN QUESTION.

Although, so far as the English Government can help to enlighten it, Parliament is left completely in the dark concerning our Egyptian policy, a flood of information has been let in upon the question during the past few days from several quarters. M. Gambetta has gone upon his travels, and with his fall a more circumspect policy has been adopted by the French Foreign Office. Once more the English Cabinet is experiencing that sense of sudden isolation caused by the defection of France, which led to the break up of the European Fleet that assembled in the Adriatic in the autumn of 1880. It may be doubted, however, whether, even if M. Gambetta had not been thrown from his saddle, our own Government would have abided by the principles laid down in the Identic Note, to whose "success" Earl Granville has testified. We cannot but think that the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House would do well to invite the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to make some statement as to the communications, written or oral, which have during the last few days passed between him and the Representatives of the Powers who read their own Identic Note to Said Pacha. Unless we are very much misinformed, Earl Granville has been devoting his energies to minimising the success and to undoing the "great effect" of his former despatches, and has been profuse in his assurances to more than one Foreign Ambassador in this Capital, that his despatch of November and the Identic Note of January really meant nothing at all, and that the desire mainly cherished by this country is that the affairs of Egypt should be treated as the common concern of all the Powers. Now, before commenting on the levity, as well as the danger of this course, we are forced to ask what relation it bears to the attitude maintained at Cairo up to date by the agents of the Cabinet? Will the noble Lord maintain that it is not "substantially different" from the line of conduct laid down in the Identic Note of January? If that be so, why did Germany, Austria, Russia, and Italy at once take action at Constantinople, and why has it become necessary to explain to them that we are most desirous to have their co-operation and to act strictly in concert with their wishes? Could anything be plainer than that Lord Granville either was alarmed by the sound he himself had made in the Identic Note, or by the counter sound which it at once evoked from the Four Powers. Whether it be wise, or whether it be unwise, to associate those Powers with ourselves in the direction and control of the affairs of Egypt, it is placed beyond dispute that such was not our intention a month ago. Whether it be wise or whether it be unwise to recognise in the amplest manner the Sovereign rights of the Sultan over the Khedive, it is incontestable that we did not recognise, nay, that we ignored, them, until they were brought to our attention by the Powers that took umbrage at our separate action. That in what appertains to Egypt our Government have first said one thing and then said another is scarcely open to doubt. The country, however, would not be unwilling to make allowance for the inherent difficulties of the situation, if it thought that at last our policy had got its head in the right direction, and that the period of vacillation was closed. But what is the present position? Unless Earl Granville can give a contradiction to the assertion that his recent efforts have been directed to tranquillising the Powers and to inviting their co-operation in Egypt, it is clear the Government shrink. Naturally, however, they are ill content to leave the matter in the humiliating position implied by doing nothing. In order to escape from either forcibly controlling Arabi Bey and his associates, or from avowedly submitting to them altogether, they have appealed to the European Concert to get them out of the difficulty, and one of two things must now infallibly occur. Either the European Concert will do nothing, in which case the National Party will continue to encroach upon the powers of the Control, and to appropriate the Revenue intended for the Bondholders; or the European Concert will resort to active interference, and Egyptian affairs, in which we are supposed to have a special and a leading interest, will become the business of the whole world. Be it borne in mind, moreover, that one of the members of the European Concert is Russia, whom Lord Derby reminded that, even in case of war with Turkey, Egypt must remain entirely out of the sphere of her military operations. Does the English Cabinet propose to allow the Court of St. Petersburg to have any say or share in controlling or directing policy at Cairo? This is to put the extreme result of this new expedient of our Foreign Office. Are we to be assured, in due course, that it would not be right, not moral, not Christian, to assume greater influence in Egypt than we are willing to accord to other Powers? If the plea were a sincere one it would deserve the contempt that is the proper answer to sentimental folly. But in this instance, at least, it is not sincere. It is merely a flimsy veil for failure and incapacity. We seem to have no policy, whether in Egypt or elsewhere, unless it be that on no account must we offend anybody, quarrel with anybody, dissatisfy anybody. Thus we are driven from pillar to post, and have no firm standing ground anywhere.—*Standard*.

FASHIONABLE NEWS.

On Monday the Empress of Austria was out with the North Shropshire Hounds, but although Viscount Hill was most scourged in his attempt to provide sport and scourged his district until after five o'clock, only one fox was found at the Tewlows. He was killed almost immediately. The meet was at Press Station, and at 11.30 her Majesty rode with Count Larisch of Lorraine, Mr. Bourke, Sir C. Dilke, and Mr. Gladstone. The meet came to an abrupt end; the dogs were sent home, and the Earl of Leicestershire, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Bourke were sent home. The Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) was on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Windsor Castle, returned to Kensington Palace on Monday evening.

The Earl and Countess of Derby returned to St. James's-square on Monday from Keston, where they have been passing a few days.

The Earl and Countess of Jersey have left Great Stanhope-street for Middleton Park, Bayswater.

The Countess of Lonsdale, accompanied by several members of her family, left Carlton-house-terrace early on Monday morning for Lowther Castle, in order to attend the late Earl's funeral.

The Right Hon. Charles P. Villiers, M.P., was said to be better on Monday, but was suffering from weakness, from his close confinement to his room. Some weeks must also elapse before the right hon. gentleman will be able to resume his place in the House of Commons.

THE COMING CLOUTURE.

Ministers have not only the courage of their convictions, but the daring which a consciousness of their majority inspires. The rumours of concession and compromise in connection with the *closure* resolution are absolutely unfounded, and the

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACT.

Lord ORAMORE, in moving for various returns respecting the names, qualifications, and action of the Sub-Commissioners appointed under the Irish Land Act, said the Government ought to inform the House which those gentlemen, previously to their appointment as Sub-Commissioners, had practical acquaintance with the lands of Ireland, and also in what cases they had directed valuations by independent valuers. The noble lord criticised adversely the proceedings of the Sub-Commissioners, and, adverturing to the pamphlet entitled, "How to become the Owner of your Farm," observed that there were rumours in Dublin to the effect that its publication at the Stationery Office there was not so accidental as the Government had been assured. He thought that, at all events, the mere fact of its publication by that office showed how important it was to have the Land Act administered by impartial officials. He repeated his charge against Mr. Gladstone and some of the hon. gentleman's colleagues, that speeches delivered by them, which he was sure had been intended only to catch the Irish vote, had done more than all other causes to stir up ill-feeling between class and class in Ireland; and he strongly denounced the Irish policy of the Government since their accession to office.

Lord CARLINGFORD thought that as Lord Oramore had given not the smallest previous intimation of his intention to go into so many Irish topics on that occasion, it would be more convenient for him to defer a report on the early day, when the working of the Land Act was to be broached. The notice of the House by the noble lord on the Opposition side. With one slight modification, the returns moved for would be produced by the Government without objection. He might at once say that Mr. Fortt, who never had been Solicitor to the Land League, had sent in his resignation as Solicitor to the Irish Land Commission, and his resignation had been accepted; Mr. Godley had sent in his also, but it had not been accepted.

Lord DUNSBURY, while not for an instant doubting that Lord Carlingford believed what he had just stated, thought there existed good reasons for believing that Mr. Fortt was at one time Solicitor of the Land League. It was said, too, that Mr. Fortt was the author of the letters of which the pamphlet was composed.

Lord PORTUGUE was of opinion that the explanation of the Government was not satisfactory. The fact that the Land Court had acted so leniently towards Mr. Fortt would not increase the public confidence in the impartiality of those who composed it. He suggested that Mr. Godley, the Secretary, who allowed the pamphlet to be circulated with the authority of the Commission, had also been dealt with too leniently.

Lord SALISBURY remarked that a new light was thrown on that matter if it were the fact that Mr. Fortt had concocted the materials of the pamphlet. As to Mr. Godley, either he was inadvertently careless or he must have thought his supporters would view with disfavour the circulation of the pamphlet.

Lord GAGE, while bearing testimony to the general intelligence of Mr. Godley, agreed with Lord Salisbury that he acted wrongly in respect of the pamphlet.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes past 6 o'clock.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The particular fashion of exchanging love greetings which has rather arbitrarily been adopted on the Fourteenth of February for its anniversary, and on Valentine's Day, has varied with the variations of tribe and century. Valentine is enrolled in the list of Christian martyrs, but the rites which have assumed his name were celebrated by pious pagans long before he was thought of:—

The second week of February is somewhat bleak for assignations in English woods, but the birds seem to find it a suitable period for mating their household arrangements. Birds have always been favourite subjects for the illustrations of heraldic arms, and about so freely in these times. These effigies, it is true, say degenerated of late years into rather perfunctory and illusive make-shifts. Sundry specimens of gay emblematic which have this year presented themselves boldly to the inquirer as Valentines to the *closure*. The idea of applying coercion to the House of Commons may be unacceptable and repulsive; but there is the best reason to believe that it is recognised as inevitable quite as much by the Conservatives as by the Government. For these reasons we hold that the resistance to the *closure* resolution will be much more apparent than real. There is a prodigious fuss over it; but the tumult will soon subside, and the echoes of angry voices will die away.—*World*.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The Speaker took the chair shortly before o'clock.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr. R. Power, a new writ was ordered for county Meath, Mr. A. M. Sullivan having resigned.

QUESTIONS.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in answer to a question from Sir W. Lawson, said it was not intended to introduce a Bill for the alteration of the Licensing Laws; but the Local Government Bill would have a bearing on the grant of licences.

In answer to Colonel Alexander, Sir W. HARCOURT stated that a Police Superannuation Bill had been prepared and would shortly be introduced.

In answer to Mr. Bourke, Sir C. Dilke said it was intended to present any papers on Egypt, and in answer to Mr. Northcote, the Under-Secretary said that as he had no official mission there were no papers relating to Mr. Errington's visit to Rome which could be produced. Sir H. W. Wolff having asked whether Lord Granville had not written a letter to Mr. Errington to show to Cardinal Jacobini as his authority, Sir C. Dilke desired that notice might be given of the question. In answer to Mr. W. H. James, Sir C. Dilke said that there was no truth in the statement that Mr. Goschen's visit to Berlin had any official character.

In answer to Baron de Worms, Mr. Gladstone declined to give any facilities for the motion in reference to the outrages on the Jews in case the debate on the address prevented it coming on that night.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on the address was resumed by Mr. PLUNKET.

Mr. PLUNKET, who first of all vindicated the Irish policy of the late Government, pointing out that they had greatly mitigated the severity of the Coercion Act they found in existence, that they had passed University and Intermediate Education Acts, and that they had opposed the re-opening of the land question, so had Lord Hartington and his colleagues in the lead of the Liberal party. Passing to the course of events under the present Government he showed how they had tolerated the extension of the Land Law, and in Mr. Chamberlain's language, had refrained from trifling it in order to prevail at the election, and how deplorably the unchecked agitation had demoralised the people. Touching on the operation of the Land Act he complained that in many cases sub-commissioners had been appointed who were partisans, and giving details of what he maintained were gross and unfair reductions of rent, he insisted that according to the speech of Mr. Gladstone last year, a case for compensating the landlords had now been established. Advertising to Mr. Gladstone's speech on Thursday, he asked, amid much cheering from the Opposition, was Home Rule to be hereafter an "open question" in the Cabinet? and warned the Government that whatever concession they might make in that direction would be used for separating their votes with the Conservative-Irish Opposition.

The apparently concerted movement in some quarters to represent the *closure* clause as being in danger, owing to defection on the part of Government to vary the form of the first resolution in the scheme of Parliamentary procedure reform, are entirely without foundation. Mr. Gladstone will on Thursday move the Resolution, as it has been placed on the paper.

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 14-15, 1882.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE IRISH NATIONALISTS.

The unexpected extinction of the debate on the Address on Tuesday night may possibly be the first effect of the impending changes in the rules of the House of Commons. The Government Whips are apparently so full of the prospect of obtaining novel and extraordinary powers for putting Ministerial business through, that they are already tempted to relax the vigilance and activity of their ordinary duties. It certainly was not intended, when the House met on Tuesday, that the debate on the Address should be closed by a speech, unanswered and unchallenged, from the most forcible and brilliant rhetorician of the ranks of the Irish Irreconcilables. Mr. Sexton, who moved the adjournment on Monday night, had the right of opening the renewed debate. He had previously established his reputation in the House as the ablest speaker among the followers of Mr. Parnell since the retirement of Mr. O'Connor Power from active co-operation with that party. The Government could not have affected to treat Mr. Sexton's attack with contemptuous indifference, though few were prepared for the artistic success of his performance. Indeed, before Mr. Sexton rose the Prime Minister was subjected to some cross-examination from members who were dissatisfied with the exclusion of all other than Irish topics hitherto from the discussion. Sir Henry Wolff demanded that an opportunity should be given for considering the affairs of the East and the informal negotiations with the Vatican. Mr. Gorst protested against leaving the state of the Transvaal without notice. Sir Walter Bartelot urged that the great question of agricultural depression should not be passed over. Mr. Gladstone, in his answer, suggested that those topics might be taken up on the report of the Address, which he proposed to fix for Wednesday, assuming that Mr. McCarthy's amendment would occupy the whole of Tuesday night's sitting. On this assumption, also, he founded his reply to Mr. Dawson's protest against the postponement of the Irish Borough Franchise Bill, which would have had the first place among the Orders of Wednesday, if it had not been supplanted by the report of the Address. Allusion was made by Sir Henry Wolff to the rumour that Mr. Herbert Gladstone was to draw upon his Irish experience in dealing with the hostile criticisms of Conservatives and Home Rulers. It was, furthermore, reasonable to expect that the Prime Minister himself would not let slip the occasion for meeting Mr. Plunkett's challenge, and showing what he really said when he seemed last week to invite the Irish Nationalists to present a Home Rule scheme for the consideration of Parliament. Unfortunately, in spite of this general understanding, no one rose to continue the debate when Mr. Sexton sat down. The Conservatives had nothing to add to the case presented by their boldest and most skillful advocate. The Speaker, seeing no one rise on the Ministerial side, was compelled to put the question forthwith, and, a division being taken, Mr. McCarthy's amendment was rejected by a majority of 98 to 30. The Address was voted immediately afterwards, and in the course of a brief conversation on the Slave Trade the House was counted out. The hours thus lost might have been profitably employed in satisfying the demands with which Mr. Gladstone had been confronted in the evening, but the loss was, we must suppose, due to accident or neglect. It is peculiarly unfortunate that Mr. Gladstone should have been unable or unwilling to give his explanation of his hasty utterances last week, while leaving Mr. Sexton's speech without an answer. We are glad to recognize Parliamentary ability on any side or in any form, and it would be idle, through dislike of Mr. Sexton's extreme and dangerous political opinions, to deny that his dashing and powerful statement of the position of the Land League made a deep impression upon the House. We remain unconvinced by his ingenious attempt to exhibit the League to the world as a constitutional movement, striving to compass legitimate and praiseworthy objects by lawful means. But he contended, with much plausibility, that the operations and the intentions of the League were consistent throughout, as well tolerated by the Government as when denounced and suppressed. It is, however, more important to take note of Mr. Sexton's uncompromising attitude upon the vital issue which underlies even the land question. Mr. Sexton declares, in the most outspoken language, that he heartily shares the hope expressed by Mr. Parnell, that Irish agitation may not be allowed to cease "until the detestable alien rule of the 'bullock' Government which has kept the country impoverished has been got rid of." To this frank affirmation of his hostility to the British connexion, Mr. Sexton significantly added that he trusted the recent speech of the Prime Minister foreshadowed the concession of the Irish Nationalist demands. But, whatever may be the attitude of English statesmanship, Mr. Sexton is determined to go his own way, and he makes no secret of the method he will resort to, to advantage the country could reap thereby would make up for the ruin that would certainly be brought about by an invasion which was successful only for a short time. If it can be proved to demonstration that the existence of the Channel Tunnel will not in the slightest degree lessen the security of the country, by all means let it be made. But no such permission should be given so long as any reasonable doubt exists upon this head. Now, the existence of such a doubt is proved by the circumstance that it is felt by a single competent witness (not that he stands alone either in testimony or authority, by any means) and the true way of breaking down the evidence of a single competent witness is to convince him that his distrust of the scheme is ill founded. It would be absurd

and dangerous. Nothing in Mr. Sexton's remarkable speech was more significant than the audacity and determination of his defence of the "boycott." He admits that, under ordinary conditions, such a system of social persecution would be detestable, but that in Ireland, where the people "were living under an alien law made by another community," it was justifiable and necessary. In the face of Mr. Sexton's audacious speech, it becomes more than ever the duty of the Government to show that the grasp laid upon lawlessness in Ireland will not be relaxed until the Irish people have recognised the supremacy of the law and the obligation of contracts. There is another duty which the Government—and especially the Prime Minister—must not decline. After what Mr. Sexton has declared to be the objects and the methods of a strong, daring, and unscrupulous party, irreconcilably hostile to the British connexion, it is manifest that any incautious words, holding out to Irish Nationalism the prospect of obtaining a leverage for subverting the Union in the form of a separate Legislature for Ireland, ought to be promptly and clearly disavowed. —Times.

ENGLAND AND THE VATICAN.

Mr. Gladstone is, with and besides his many other qualifications, a man of business, and we do not suppose that he can feel very well satisfied with the methods of communication with the Vatican which he described on Tuesday. It is a Foreign Office tradition that means of direct intercourse between the Holy See and the British Government are essential. There are questions affecting the Roman Catholic Church in the colonies, in India, and perhaps nearer home, as to which it is believed to be necessary to interchange views and information with the Pope. For this purpose the present Lord Lyons, the present Lord Ampthill, and Mr. Jervois were at different times detached from what was then the British Legation at Florence to the Vatican. They corresponded, we believe, directly with the Foreign Office, and not through the intervention of the Minister to the Court of the King of Italy. When this officious representation was abolished, the good offices of Cardinal Howard were put into requisition for bringing the Queen's Government and the Papal See into communication. It is important that there should be an exchange of views between Downing-street and Dublin Castle on the one hand, and the Vatican on the other, it is certainly desirable that it should be conducted in a regular and official manner, by agents responsible to a Ministry, which is in its turn responsible to the House of Commons, and by means of despatches and other documents which can be laid before Parliament. That Mr. Forster should correspond with the Pope through Lord O'Hagan, and Lord Granville through Mr. Errington, may be necessary in default of any more regular channels of communication; but the House of Commons should know what has been done. When business is transacted by means of private letters, which being private cannot be laid before Parliament, and which not being laid before Parliament cannot be referred to in it, we seem to be getting very far back into the era and the methods of secret and irresponsible diplomacy. Perhaps there is no help for it in this particular case and in present circumstances. But even Exeter Hall would prefer, we imagine, a public and responsible representative at the Vatican to strictly private and confidential correspondence with it. —Daily News.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL AND MILITARY OPINION.

Mr. Gladstone's answer to Mr. Bromley-Davenport on Tuesday afternoon was satisfactory. The Channel Tunnel Bills are not to be rushed through the House of Commons. It is strange that when the debate was first considered under the late Government so little attention should have been paid to its military aspects. That mistake has now been set right. The Government "have become aware that various authorities, chiefly military authorities, had perceived that there were strong reasons why the question should be reopened," and they are now about to give these reasons immediate and complete consideration. It cannot be too much impressed upon the public that the question is before everything else a military question. It is of but little use to dwell on the financial and engineering difficulties of the scheme. Unforeseen obstacle may, of course, present themselves in both directions. But, in the opinion of those who are most likely to have gauged them accurately, the chance of their doing so is small. It may be assumed, therefore, that unless Parliament refuses its consent to the scheme on purely military grounds, one or more tunnels will shortly be constructed underneath the Channel. The one question of real importance is whether the military reasons which are urged against the scheme have sufficient force to outweigh the reasons urged in its favour. We have already insisted on the fundamental distinction between the amount and kind of evidence that ought to be tendered before a Channel Tunnel Bill is accepted by Parliament and the amount and kind of evidence that would be demanded from the promotion of any ordinary experiment. In the latter case it would be enough to show that the balance of argument is on the side of the undertaking. If the commercial gain were sufficiently great, the country might fairly be willing to run some little risk in order to secure it. In this case, however, the risk to be run is altogether out of proportion to any gain the scheme could bring in. Granted the number of passengers between Paris and London increased tenfold, and the growth of the goods traffic was fully in proportion to it, no advantage the country could reap thereby would make up for the ruin that would certainly be brought about by an invasion which was successful only for a short time. If it can be proved to demonstration that the existence of the Channel Tunnel will not in the slightest degree lessen the security of the country, by all means let it be made. But no such permission should be given so long as any reasonable doubt exists upon this head.

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POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ITEMS.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS")

By direction of the Speaker, an arrangement has been made by which all questions addressed to the Prime Minister are placed together, and come at the end of the questions. This is done with the idea to economize as much as possible Mr. Gladstone's time.

It is stated that Sir Stafford Northcote will not have the full support of the Conservative party in moving the negative to the first resolution. Several of the moderate Conservatives recognise the necessity of placing the matter of the Home in working order, and will not be responsible for stentorian efforts to embarrass endeavours in that direction.

In obedience to the strong wish issued on Tuesday, there was a large attendance of members in the House of Commons, anticipating the division on the Address. It appearing clear at seven o'clock that this could not take place before 11, more than 200 members left the House, arranging to be back at that hour.

Sir de Worms was prepared to bring on Tuesday night his resolution respecting the persecution of the Jews. A hasty telegram brought him from the time that he arrived at the house shortly after eight o'clock. Mr. Shire, who was to second the resolution, was also present. The count-out interrupted a consultation as to whether, in the circumstances, it would be desirable to bring forward the resolution.

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Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 16—17, 1882.

THE TAUNTON ELECTION.

The result of the Taunton Election on Thursday is both gratifying and encouraging to the Conservative party, especially when viewed in relation to the electioneering history of the last few months.

Mr. Allsopp has been returned by a majority of two hundred and twenty-seven over Lord Kilcoursie, an opponent of very considerable ability, and whose presence in the House would have been hailed with satisfaction by those interested in strengthening Mr. Gladstone's militant majority. But no matter how the event is regarded, the electoral satisfaction will be forced to see in the figures irresistible evidence, not perhaps of an Opposition gain, but of a legitimate Opposition triumph.

At the last Election Sir W. Palliser the Conservative who was highest on the poll obtained one thousand and eighty-four votes. Mr. Allsopp on Thursday polled one thousand one hundred and forty-four, so that the Conservatives had increased their strength by sixty.

Sir Henry James, the Liberal, polled at the General Election one thousand; on the present occasion Lord Kilcoursie has only received nine hundred and seventeen votes, showing that the Liberal forces have been reduced since 1880 by eighty-three votes. It will probably be said that a great many Conservatives in the borough out of personal regard for the Attorney-General give him one of their votes, and that it is not right to compare Lord Kilcoursie's poll with those of the lowest Conservative and lowest Liberal at the General Election in 1880. At that time Mr. Cargill, who stood with Sir W. Palliser, received nine hundred and seventy-one votes, or fifty-four more than Lord Kilcoursie polled on Thursday, whilst Mr. Eykyn, who was the Attorney-General's colleague, polled nine hundred and sixty-eight votes, or fifty-one more than were cast for Lord Kilcoursie. But the return of Mr. Allsopp is chiefly remarkable inasmuch as it gives us an indication of the drift of public opinion. On this subject the advisers of the Ministry are not so shrewd or experienced as the late Mr. W. P. Adam, and it is feared they are just now seriously misleading their leaders. They ignore those destructive forces of reaction, slow and stealthy in their operation, but sure and deadly in their results, which are eating away their majority in the constituencies. The advisers of the Ministry foolishly allow themselves to be deceived by the provincial caucuses, and with equal folly, permit their masters to fall victims to this deception. If, as they say, they are confident the country is still with them, how do they account for the almost unbroken series of Conservative triumphs which has made the electioneering history of the Recess so remarkable. Beginning with the victory of Mr. Lowther in North Lincoln, and the equally significant success of Sir George Elliot in North Durham, we have also to count the returns of Mr. Salt for Stafford, of Mr. Dawney for the North Riding, of Mr. Raikes, unopposed by the local Liberal leaders, for Preston, and of Lord Algernon Percy for Westminster. All these victories point in one direction, and enforce the same lesson. What that lesson is there can be no doubt. The popularity of the Ministry is waning. The feeling of the country is manifestly rising against Mr. Gladstone, and the tide which promises once more to float the Opposition to power, has already, perhaps rather unexpectedly, begun to flow with a current both swift and strong.—*Standard.*

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BASUTOS.

We believe that at the present moment the Cape Government have under consideration a proposal for dealing with the Basuto difficulty which may be attended with important consequences to the peace of South Africa:—

A large portion of the disaffected Basutos have refused to carry out the terms of the Governor's award, especially that part of it which required them to give up the cattle which they captured from the loyal tribes during the war. Mr. Orpen, the British Resident, has shown much patience in his efforts to induce the Masses of the tribe to obey Sir Hercules Robinson's award, as well as to strengthen the hands of the loyal party, in order to enable them to recover possession of their property. More than once he has apparently been at the point of success, but unfortunately the bitter and distrustful feelings which the war has excited among the Basutos have thus far prevented the settlement of the difficulty. Two or three courses are open to the Cape Ministry. The first is to repeal the Basutoland Annexation Act, and to insist upon the Imperial Government resuming control of the country. It is urged in favour of this course that the Basutos are loyal to the Queen, and that even those who took up arms against the colony did not believe that they were fighting against her Government. In the colony the supporters of the Ministry are anxious that the Basutos should again be placed under the Colonial Office; and Mr. Upington, who was Attorney-General under Mr. Syrigg, has also expressed his intention to advocate the same policy. A second course would be to withdraw British authority altogether from Basutoland, and to restore to the Basutos the independence which they formerly enjoyed.

Under the circumstances the semi-official organ could hardly fail to stand between the lines the article which I have mentioned leaves the impression that the Government hopes the Basutians will not take the upper hand, but that should they succeed in doing so they will find Austria pre-pased for the consequences.

their authority in Basutoland, and to give them full power to do this in their own way. This is the particular method of settling the difficulty which now appears to be under consideration, but as it may involve the responsibility—pecuniary and otherwise—of a renewal of hostilities, and also the discredit which would undoubtedly result from the confiscation of native territory, it is not surprising that Mr. Scanlan and his colleagues at Cape-town should take time to consider their decision.—*Daily News.*

OUTRAGES ON JEWS IN RUSSIA.

The *Daily Telegraph* has received the following despatch, dated Feb. 16, from its Vienna correspondent:—

The following facts connected with the statement of Jews in Russia have been given to a newspaper in which implicit confidence may be placed:—Cilliopol, Kieff, Odessa, Vilna, Peczaev, Kona, and Praslaw more than 250 women were outraged by the Jewish baiters. At Kieff the assailants broke into a house where the tenant's daughter was going to be married. First they violated the young woman, and then despoiled every object they could lay hands upon, including the poor girl's trousseau. While this odious scene was being enacted, one of them played the piano, which was afterwards broken to pieces and thrown out of the window. During the disturbances at Kieff several notifications of the town applied to General Drentzel, who was not present, and who had not received any money from the Government for expenses, and had incurred expenses except outlay in travelling for his own pleasure.

Lord ORANSHAW understood the statement o

f the Foreign Secretary to amount to an announcement that in Mr. Errington we had an unofficial and unpaid agent at the Vatican.

Lord SALISBURY, whilst expressing no

objection to the policy of having an

agent at the Vatican, suggested that Lord

Granville's phrase concerning Mr. Errington possessing the confidence of the Government, might be understood to mean more than the Foreign Secretary intended. If, as used by the noble earl, it only meant that Mr. Errington was a gentleman highly esteemed by the Government, it did not convey much as it were.

He suggested further that the ambiguity of the Ministerial explanations caused more importance to be attached to Mr. Errington's position in Rome than would otherwise be attributed to it.

Lord GRANVILLE explained that what he had intended to convey by "confidence" was the esteem referred to by Lord Salisbury.

Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lord CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE OUTRAGE NEAR ARTAKI.

Lord BARRINGTON in answer to an inquiry by Lord Barrington read a telegram from Lord Dufferin, giving an account of the attack by Albanians on Captain Selby, and a further one stating that the gallant officer had slept and taken nourishment since he sustained his injuries.

MR. ERINGTON'S VISIT TO ROME.

Lord GRANVILLE, replying to a question from Lord Balfour, said he had no alterations in, or additions to, make to the address of the Foreign Minister, given with regard to Mr. Errington's communications with the Vatican.

Mr. Errington being well known at Rome and possessing the confidence of her Majesty's Government, his visit to Rome, where he had gone for his own purposes to spend the winter, afforded a good opportunity for the communication of information to the Vatican. It was not usual to lay before Parliament papers which were not of a diplomatic and formal character. In consequence of a statement made in another place by Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, he had telegraphed to Rome and received a reply containing Mr. Errington's assurance that he had not received any money from the Government for expenses, and had incurred his expenses except outlay in travelling for his own pleasure.

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Their Lordships adjourned at 10 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE NEW RULES.

Sir H. D. WOLFE gave notice to move an amendment to the Prime Minister's first resolution, to leave out the words "Chairman of a Committee," and to except Committees of the House from the operation of the rule (Opposition cheer).

In answer to various questions as to the New Rules, the Marquis of HARTINGTON gave notice that, as there appeared to be no likelihood of finishing the debate on the Address at an early hour that evening, the New Rules would not be taken until Monday. They could not be *de die in diem* without the consent of the House, and if the first rule were passed it would not be with the Government to say whether it should be applied to the discussion of the other rules.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON (in the absence of Mr. Gladstone) replying to a question from Mr. Warton, said that neither he nor any of his colleagues had received any information as to the rumoured accident to the Queen, and they had no reason to think there was any foundation for it.

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL.

In reply to Mr. Cartington, Sir WILLIAM HARGRAVE said that the Public Prosecutor was alone responsible for the fact that proceedings had not been taken against the managers of St. Paul's School.

THE NORTH RIDING ELECTION.

Mr. COHEN was proposing to call attention as a matter of privilege to the interference of Lord Ripon and Lord Zetland in the North Riding of Yorkshire election, contrary to the standing order, but was informed by the Speaker that the long delay deprived the question of the priority of privilege; whereupon Mr. Cohen gave notice that he would defer the subject forward on motion at an early period.

THE REPORT OF THE ADDRESS.

The adjourned debate on the Report of the Address was resumed by

The ATTORNEY GENERAL for Ireland, who, first of all, dealing with the criticisms on the Land Act, maintained that, if rents had been reduced, that proved the existence of rack-renting on a larger scale than had been suspected, and that it was idle to expect a re-generation of the country from it; so that it was difficult to draw the line between official and non-official Russia. The arrests at Lemberg have been followed by domiciliary searches at Czernowitz, Stanislaw, and other places in Galicia, and it may be taken for granted that the Government now hold the threads of the League and for the further emigration of the Jews from Russia, which is particularly unfortunate in presence of General Ignatieff's recent statement that nothing would be changed in their condition, but that the frontier was open for them to go if they liked. Several hundred of them who have been at the Austrian frontier town of Brody since the riots at Kieff and Odessa are consequently about to be sent back to what used to be their homes. There is no help for it, as if allowed to remain where they are they would only form a beggars' colony. The Jewish Alliances of America and Canada cannot accept the responsibility of providing for the wants of them without a subsidy which is easily accounted for, few of them being acquainted with any technical profession. Palestine offers no field for organisation. The country between Jaffa and Jerusalem is completely barren, while between Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Hebron, where the soil is good, there is no security whatever, and colonists would be robbed by the Arabs of the fruits of their toil. Hence the remedy to the condition of these unhappy people was not to be found in emigration.

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NON-OFFICIAL WARFARE.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, in a despatch dated Feb. 15, says:—

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League should have been suppressed at a much earlier period, and with regard to the language of Mr. Parnell, declared by the Attorney-General to be treasonable, he said it bore a strong family likeness to that of Mr. Chamberlain's language, which, he contended, proved that the Government had utilised the agitation and the outrages for the purpose of coercing Parliament. As to the *Coercion Bill*, he pointed out that Mr. Parnell had borrowed the idea from the Disruptive Bill of the Government. In reply to the taunt that the Tories had no Irish policy but coercion, he enumerated the measures, such as University and Intermediate Education, and other subjects, passed by the late Government, and as to the neglect of the Royal Equipe. As to the *Coercion Bill*, he pointed out that Mr. Parnell had borrowed the idea from the Disruptive Bill of the Government. In reply to the taunt that the Tories had no Irish policy but coercion, he enumerated the measures, such as University and Intermediate Education, and other subjects, passed by the late Government, and as to the neglect of the Royal Equipe. As to the *Coercion Bill*, he pointed out that Mr. Parnell had borrowed the idea from the Disruptive Bill of the Government. In reply to the taunt that the Tories had no Irish policy but coercion, he enumerated the measures, such as University and Intermediate Education, and other subjects, passed by the late Government, and as to the neglect of the Royal Equipe. As to the *Coercion Bill*, he pointed out that Mr. Parnell had borrowed the idea from the Disruptive Bill of the Government. In reply to the taunt that the Tories had no Irish policy but coercion, he enumerated the measures, such as University and Intermediate Education

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NICE 1—15, QUAI MASSENA.

Great Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 17—18, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE IRISH LAND ACT.

The Times, commenting on the debate in the House of Lords on Friday night on the working of the Irish Land Act, says the criticisms offered were the more pointed because they did not proceed from hostility to the principle of the Act itself.

One speaker after another disapproved all intention of controverting it. Lord Donoughmore quarelled with the unexpected results, which are materially different from those alleged by its promoters; and this was the keynote of the debate.

Several decisions which are not easily understood were referred to, and we cannot wonder at the murmurs of the sufferers. But could other results be looked for if "fair rent," that indefinite entity, is to be determined? As Lord Lansdowne observed, the estimate of a fair rent is as uncertain as the character of the men to whose judgments the question was submitted. It will vary with the length of each sub-commissioner's foot; and it will occasionally happen that hardships are inflicted in carrying out so vague and elastic a principle. A few picked instances of apparent injustice done under the cloak of a judicial decision, or some ill-disposed reasons or hasty dicta in a sub-commissioner's judgment are, however, not conclusive. We are bound to look at the work done by the sub-commissioners as a whole, and it would be but fair to wait until their decisions are considerably more numerous. In the 1,300 cases already dealt with reductions have for the most part taken place. But it is contended that this fact is no criterion of the result of future proceedings, since high rents have for the most part been first brought before the courts, and time only can show the value of this plea.

Descending to particulars, how is such an inquiry as is proposed to be conducted? Are the commissioners to close their courts and the sub-commissioners to be brought over to justify their decisions?

The debate will do good in making known the full extent of the hardships of an important class, and the apprehensions that, as Lord Cairns put it, the infant Hercules may strangle the Irish landlords, and not the Land League. But it would be a pity to throw discredit on the whole body of the sub-commissioners at the threshold of their labours; to blame them for failings which may be due to the inherent difficulty of the task assigned them by Parliament; and to destroy the chance that the Land Act may eventually introduce a reign of peace and contentment. With this hope Parliament passed, only a few months ago, a drastic and exceptional measure.

With this hope Parliament is bound to persevere in its resolution taken last session, however distant and far off tranquil days for Ireland may seem. The House of Lords having thought fit, for reasons which are perfectly intelligible, to institute an inquiry, the wish of every one must be that the committee's labours be conducted thoroughly, impartially, and with celerity.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

The Spectator urges that England does not desire chances of safety from sudden invasion, even if they are a million to one, but a certainty of safety so long as her fleet is afloat and decently commanded. She relies on the broad ditch, and any means whatever of turning that ditch involves her danger such as, when fairly realized, would make her best man sick with fear.

So intense would be the impression of this danger, that it would lead to reducing expenses, each one of which would be more than ten years' advantage from the tunnel. Statesmen, however, of both parties will agree that if England is to have a foreign policy, and especially if that policy is to be based upon a strong alliance of the Western Powers, the recurrence of panic as to French invasion must be prevented with as much care and as much skill as a French war. To foster such panics, and give them fresh reason, for sake of a commercial gain, even if it were much larger than any we can hope for from a Channel tunnel, will appear to them political chicanery.

The Army and Navy Gazette asks what effect of Lord Donoughmore's motion can scarcely end here. It practically amounts, however, to a censure on the Act of last session, as that Act has been interpreted by its administrators, but to the temporary paralysis of its machinery. The House of Lords has virtually withdrawn the assent which it reluctantly gave to the Land Act, on the plea that it was based on false pretences. How will the Government take such a rebuff as this, which places the Government in a most awkward dilemma, and compromises the Land Act itself?

The Morning Post says:—The Irish Land Act was, so far as its results are yet known, formally put upon its trial in the House of Lords on Friday evening, and we think we are justified in saying that its condemnation was complete. The truth was that during this much protracted debate there were no tangible grounds on which the Government could base their opposition to Lord Donoughmore's motion. The Land Act has disappointed even its warmest supporters, and no more conclusive reason could be offered for instituting the proposed inquiry. If any doubts could have been entertained respecting the necessity of assenting to the proposal to appoint a Select Committee to inquire into the operation of the Land Act they must have been dissipated by the very effective and very temperate speech of Lord Cairns.

THE CLOUTURE.

The Saturday Review considers that the postponement of the consideration of the New Rules of Procedure, owing to the prolonged debate on the Address, has been in every way beneficial. Attention is at present concentrated on the first rule established the *closure*, not only because it is the first, but also because it involves the most considerable change in Parliamentary procedure. What, then, is the object of the first rule, and how does it propose to



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Great-Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 19—20, 1882.

GENERAL SKOBELEFF'S SPEECH.

General Skobeleff, as we are informed by our Paris correspondent, denies that he uttered the extraordinary language attributed to him by some of the Paris journals. If, indeed, this were the first example of General Skobeleff's heliocentric orations, it would be almost incredible that he should have spoken of an ally of his country terms only applicable to a declared enemy. We ourselves, however, as well as the Austrians, have had some experience of the delicate tact shown by this distinguished officer in his language concerning foreign countries. Thus, though it is possible that the fierce invective against Germans with which General Skobeleff has been credited is in a great measure exaggerated, Englishmen will not be disinclined to believe that the speech in question was pugnacious, and calculated to create bad blood between Russia and Austria, as well as between Austria and the Slavs on her border. It is high time that these inflammatory and disquieting harangues from men in the high position of General Skobeleff should be summarily stopped. If the Russian Government professes to hold any check at all upon its officers, now is the time to exercise such a restraint. At a moment when Austria is engaged in the suppression of an insurrection in the Herzegovina we might expect Russia and Russian agents to be extraordinarily cautious in not lending colour to reports of Russian intrigues on the frontier. Information emanating from Vienna is to the effect that, in the opinion of the Austrian Government, derived no doubt from official Russian assurances, these reports are without foundation; and Count Kalnoky has already declared his confidence in Russian protestations of anxiety. On the other hand, the accounts which our Vienna correspondent gives of the alarming rumours that prevail throughout South Eastern Europe, culminating in the reported resignation of M. de Giers and the appointment of General Ignatief to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, show an apprehension of danger which itself is an intolerable evil. It now becomes a primary international duty that Russia should cease to permit the embarrassment of an ally by the declamations or the acts of the Russian military caste. Gen. Skobeleff's tone is only a sample of the generally adopted by less prominent and less responsible men in and out of Russia. The Russian Government, by the laxness of its discipline, becomes morally responsible for a state of things distinctly endangering the peace of Europe. The Court of St. Petersburg is in duty bound to show to Austria by conduct as well as by bare professions that it loyally abides by the Berlin settlement. Austria is now following out the legitimate consequences of that settlement, signed by every party interested, by Turkey and by Russia herself. Austrians are entitled, in their difficult and delicate position, to the loyal support of all the signatories of the treaty. If, in carrying on the occupation sanctioned by the Powers, Austria has dealt somewhat strictly with a race accustomed to the law Ottoman rule, that is no valid pretext for outside interference. Those who treat like General Skobeleff, the financial and commercial progress of Austria in the Slav countries, as an armed invasion would seem determined to find something to quarrel about. The least Europe can expect is that all this rhetoric of persons in high places, all this declamation adverse to the peace of Europe, should be at once repudiated and repressed. However soon the Russian Government may disclaim responsibility for the sentiment, the position of the speaker cannot fail to breed alarm and suspicion in the financial, if not in the political, world. So far as the authority of the Czar in his partial seclusion extends, Europe has the right to ask that it shall be used to prevent the recurrence of firebrand speeches from Russian Generals, and most of all from the first of Russian Generals.—Times.

The Standard says:—General Skobeleff affects to be indignant at the report of his recent speech to the Servian students in Paris, to which, as he does not profess to be a politician, he considers too great importance has been attached. He complains that he has been much misrepresented in the matter, though he admits that the spirit of his remarks has been faithfully reproduced. Starting as it was, the speech, and yet more surprising, as it was, as the reply of the Russian Consul in Bulgaria, M. Chitrovo, to an Address presented to him a few days since by a Deputation from the Central Slav Committee of Moscow, the significance of these two curious incidents would be lost were not a distinction to be made between official, diplomatic, and governmental Russia on the one hand, and the formless, nameless, unaccredited Russia on the other, which feels, thinks, acts, and speaks in a semi-blind, semi-conscious, semi-articulate manner, quite independently of the Czar, of his Ministers, his Diplomats, and his army. General Skobeleff has won world-wide fame as a soldier, and his services were rendered under the authorised flag of the Russian nation. He has distinguished himself alike in Europe and in Asia, and his name and the name of the fields he won are sufficiently identified with the recognised glories of his country to give hap-

tismal titles to the Russian navy. But for all that, General Skobeleff has always been something more than a soldier of the Crown. He has taken care to maintain a vigorous and distinct personality of his own; and though he has served the Imperial Government of St. Petersburg with singular valour and fidelity, he has uniformly dissociated himself from its more prudent policy, and has not hesitated openly to repudiate all sympathy with its subordination of Slavonic yearnings to the preservation of a good understanding with the European Powers. In the language, therefore, which he has just employed there is nothing substantially new. He has only said what everybody knew he thought. It is the choice of time and place that has caused his words to resound through Europe. He has sent down the Funds at Vienna; he has raised a tremendous news-paper clamour at Berlin, and called forth an expression of the deepest sorrow and indignation from the German Emperor. That he should have done so is not wonderful. He has "caught up the whole of truth and uttered it," as far as the relation of Russia to Germany and Austria is concerned. "We are not at home in our own house," he says, or has been made to say. "The foreigner is everywhere, and his hand in everything. We are the dupes of his policy, the victim of his intrigues. If you wish to know the name of this foreigner, this intruder and intriguer, I will tell you. It is the German." Language so downright and plain-spoken as this may possibly be untrue and ill-timed; but if anybody thinks it is extravagant, in the sense that it is untrue, he can have studied the existing political problem on the Continent to very little purpose. It is not to the various officials of German origin and German nomenclature, who are so widely and so actively employed in Russia, that General Skobeleff refers. If he had said, "I will name the intruder and intriguer; it is Prince Bismarck," he would have expressed his inmost thought more completely than he ventured to do. The restraint under which Gen. Skobeleff and all Russians who share his opinions are chafing is the restraint exercised by German diplomacy over Russian policy. The Czar went to Dantzig, and was cordially received; but the price of the reception was the assumption and maintenance of a pass attitude between Austria and the Slavonic malcontents she is striving to reduce to submission. Against this attitude of neutrality the patriotic soul of General Skobeleff revolts. He knows perfectly well it is that induces the Czar and his Ministers to look on with folded arms while the insurgents in Herzegovina are shot down or disarmed, while the Ruthenians of Galicia are vigilantly supervised, and while slowly but surely Austria-Hungary is pushing its influence eastward. It is the German, says General Skobeleff; and he is quite right. But if this state of things is to end, what is the alternative? General Skobeleff sees it, and does not shrink from it. "A struggle between the Slav and the Teuton is inevitable. It will be long, sanguinary, and terrible; but the Slav will triumph." That is to prophesy—a proverbially dangerous function. Yet no cautious observer will laugh at the prediction. The forces that would be brought into play by such a struggle would be many and complex. Were Russia avowedly to put itself at the head of a great Panslavonic movement, there is not a root of ground between the Rhine and the Black Sea that would not feel the convulsion. Austria would have to fight at the prediction. The forces that would be brought into play by such a struggle would be many and complex. Were Russia avowedly to put itself at the head of a great Panslavonic movement, there is not a root of ground between the Rhine and the Black Sea that would not feel the convulsion. Austria would have to fight at the prediction. 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Great Britain.
LONDON, FEBRUARY 21—22, 1882.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The majority of the House were completely taken by surprise, on Tuesday, at the open violation of the authority of the House and of the Speaker by Mr. Bradlaugh. Lord Randolph Churchill was the first to submit a rather carelessly-worded motion for a new writ, on the ground that Mr. Bradlaugh had vacated his seat by sitting without previously taking the oath. The Attorney-General pointed out the legal difficulties involved. It was not certain that Mr. Bradlaugh's improvised oath was not sufficient to satisfy the statute. The statute, again, was directed against members who sat "during a debate" without previously taking the oath. There was no question before the House at the time, and consequently it might be argued that Mr. Bradlaugh had not rendered himself liable to the penalties of the statute. Mr. Gladstone added his advice in favour of proceeding with deliberation. Dr. Lyons eventually gave notice of his intention to move "that Mr. Bradlaugh having been guilty of a profanation, he is declared to be incapable of sitting in Parliament, and that he be discharged from further attendance." This motion, equivalent to a proposal of expulsion, was favourably received, and, the debate having been adjourned, will possibly be agreed to by the House. In the meanwhile, it may be well to point out what are the issues raised by this scandalous piece of Parliamentary indecorum. First, is Mr. Bradlaugh's informal repetition of the words of the oath a taking of the oath? Secondly, if it is not, has Mr. Bradlaugh vacated his seat and rendered himself liable to pecuniary penalties? Thirdly, is the attempt to take the oath such an affront to the House as will warrant punishment? Upon the last question there can be little doubt that Mr. Bradlaugh deserves and Parliament is entitled to inflict punishment of some sort. Mr. Bradlaugh is refused permission to take the oath, and in the face and in defiance of the whole House he advances to the table and goes through the form which the House had declared in his lips would be a farce. Whether it would be most expedient to visit Mr. Bradlaugh's conduct with expulsion, or to select some chastisement less congenial to Mr. Bradlaugh himself, will be a matter for the consideration of the House. Most persons will be disposed to agree that Mr. Bradlaugh's action will have damaged him immensely in the opinion even of his friends and, as he may find, of the electors of his constituency. But the worst of it is that Mr. Bradlaugh's detriment is achieved at the expense of the dignity of the House. We would ask, further, what guarantee there is against the repetition of these scenes and against the revival of the difficulties which led to them. Mr. Bradlaugh may be expelled, and he may fail to secure re-election for Northampton. But there is nothing to prevent another constituency adopting Mr. Bradlaugh, or, failing him, an analogue of Mr. Bradlaugh. There is no prospect of rest, in fact, from these interminable scenes of confusion and indecorum unless a bill should be passed to obviate their recurrence. In jostling with Mr. Bradlaugh the House gets the worst of it. Why allow a state of things to continue in which it is possible to jostle with Mr. Bradlaugh or another of his opinions?—Times.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN CRISIS.
The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday night:—
The excitement produced throughout Germany by Schleseloff's anti-German speeches continued unabated. If there was one thing which could have allayed the national indignation and alarm, it was a prompt, candid, and unmistakeable disavowal of Schleseloff's insults by the Government of the Czar. If, moreover, there was one thing which, in German official and non-official circles, was this morning regarded as certain, it was that in the course of the day we should hear that such a full, plain, and prompt repudiation had actually been made by Russia. Such being the universal feeling here, it is difficult to exaggerate the profound dismay and indignation produced by the news received this afternoon from St. Petersburg respecting the labours and efforts of the Russian papers. The hope that the Czar would, without delay, administer a pointed rebuke to the offender, and thus soothe the wounded susceptibilities of the German nation, has been egregiously disappointed. And this disappointment, in its effects, is almost equivalent to the infliction of another actual insult. Moreover, everything we hear only contributes to aggravate the popular excitement, and widen the breach which has been so wantonly made between the two by far most powerful and populous Empires of the European Continent. One day we learn that a Russian Consul in one of the Balkan Principalities has, if anything, out-Heroed Herod, and hurled against Germany and Germany's ally India grosser than those so heedlessly uttered in the direction of the most abject General in the Russian service. Another day we hear of Russian statesmen intriguing with parties in Hungary and endeavouring to weaken Austria by seducing them from their allegiance to her, aiming to attain this end by encouraging the hare-brained "Party of Independence" in the almost inconceivable folly from which it derives at once its name and its condemnation. Such indirect blows at Germany, through her ally, naturally only tend to deepen the prevailing bitterness.

marily to expel Mr. Bradlaugh, the position which he legally occupies, after the monstrous travesty of Tuesday, is by no means clear. That he took the oath, in one sense, is as certain as that the manner in which he took it was not in accordance with the formalities of the House, which require that the oath shall be "solemnly and publicly made and subscribed." The Attorney-General declined to express an opinion "whether what the member for Northampton had done had been a taking of the oath" within the meaning of the Statute. "The House," he continued, "had prescribed no manner in which it should be taken, except that it should be taken at the table. Whether all the conditions as to the taking of the oath had been fulfilled, in face of the resolution that Mr. Bradlaugh should not take it," Sir Henry James refused to say. The occasion of these remarks was a motion of Lord Randolph Churchill, declaring that a vacancy had occurred in the borough of Northampton, and charging Mr. Bradlaugh with having "since his election sat in the House of Commons without having taken or subscribed the Oath, according to law." This resolution was, of course, equivalent to one for Mr. Bradlaugh's expulsion, and the House of Commons was well advised in adjourning the debate.

The *Daily News* observes:—Mr. Bradlaugh has of course put himself in a false position by his direct disobedience to a resolution of the House. He has put into the hands of his opponents a strong weapon. The House might proceed to expel him on the ground of this disobedience. On the other hand it is possible that he may be found to have legally complied with the obligation of the statute by taking the oath by surprise in the face of the whole House. Mr. Labouchere appealed for delay; but Mr. Gladstone pointed out that the legal point might be tried; but Mr. Gladstone pointed out with great force, as the Attorney-General had already intimated, that the question raised of insult to the House differed entirely from, and must not be confounded with, Mr. Bradlaugh's legal position. As to the insult, it seems to us that the House has on former occasions received greater provocation from Mr. Bradlaugh than that which he offered on Tuesday. His manner at least was respectful, and there was a novel accent of timidity instead of defiance in his voice. Mr. Gladstone, on behalf of the Government, has promised to consider what course can be taken in the entirely novel circumstances in which the House is placed; but they have a right to ask that Sir Stafford Northcote and his friends, who have led the House into this vexatious difficulty, should themselves indicate some means of possible extrication from it.

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EGYPT AND THE POWERS.

The following document was signed by

the Controllers-General, MM. de Blignières

and Colvin, at Cairo, on the 6th inst.:—

"When the degrees regulating the powers

of the Controllers were promulgated the real

power belonged to the Khedive, and by delega-

tion to his Ministers. If the Controllers-

General were confined to the right of giving

advice it would be difficult to presume that their advice

would receive just appreciation. This expec-

ted has been realized, and the financial

situation of the country, which was so grave

two years ago, is now as prosperous. But

since then the power has shifted. It now

belongs to the Chamber of Delegates and to

several military chiefs whom I have

designated as Controllers."

Lord Norton continues to his

room with an attack of gout. He is under

the care of Dr. Erichsen and Dr. Lavies.

Eliza Lady Prescott died on Monday at her

residence in Grafton-street. The deceased lady

was the youngest daughter of Mr. Henry

Hillier, and married the late Sir George

William Prescott, Bart. (his second wife) in

July, 1845, and was left a widow in April,

1850, and was mother of the present baronet,

Sir George Redleshaw Prescott.

The Hon. Robert and Mrs. Milnes have

arrived at Somersett House, Park-lane.

Sir Charles Wyke, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., re-

turned to Bolton-row on Tuesday from Tor-

quay.

PARIS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1882.

PRICE 40 CENTIMES

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The Load CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Lord BURKE, for Lord DONOMORE, asked whether the evidence adduced by the Departmental Committee would be laid before Parliament, and whether the new committee on the subject would sit with closed doors. He suggested that, as one of the two companies which proposed to make a tunnel under the Channel was under the immediate presidency of a prominent official of her Majesty's Government, the new committee ought to be a strong and impartial one.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY was of opinion that the Government should give their early attention to this matter.

Lord BRABOURNE asked what position we should hold in the eyes of France if, having given our assent to the making of the tunnel before the feasibility of that work was proved, we now set ourselves against it when its feasibility was proved.

The MARQUEE of BART submitted that the observations of Lord BRABOURNE were out of order, and that it was not becoming in that noble lord, who was a director of a company promoting the tunnel, to make such a speech.

Mr. GLOASTONE, deprecating unnecessary heat, pointed out that the points raised were mere noise and noise, and moved the adjournment of the debate until Wednesday.

Mr. GIBSON, while supporting the motion, said that he had heard that Mr. Bradlaugh had broken his parole, and gave notice of his intention to move that, having been guilty of a profanation, he is incapable of sitting in Parliament, and that he be discharged from further attendance.

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Great Britain

LONDON, FEBRUARY 21—22, 1882.

MR. BRADLAUGH AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The majority of the House were completely taken by surprise, on Tuesday, at the open violation of the authority of the House and of the Speaker by Mr. Bradlaugh. Lord Randolph Churchill was the first to submit a rather carelessly-worded motion for a new writ, on the ground that Mr. Bradlaugh had vacated his seat by sitting without previously taking the oath. The Attorney-General pointed out the legal difficulties involved. It was not certain that Mr. Bradlaugh's improvised oath was not sufficient to satisfy the statute. The statute, again, was directed against members who sat "during a debate" without previously taking the oath. There was no question before the House at the time, and consequently it might be argued that Mr. Bradlaugh had not rendered himself liable to the penalties of the statute. Mr. Gladstone added his advice in favour of proceeding with deliberation. Dr. Lyons eventually gave notice of his intention to move "that Mr. Bradlaugh having been guilty of a profanation, he is declared to be incapable of sitting in Parliament, and that he be discharged from further attendance." This motion, equivalent to a proposal of expulsion, was favourably received, and the debate having been adjourned, will possibly be agreed to by the House. In the meanwhile, it may be well to point out what are the issues raised by this scandalous piece of Parliamentary indecorum. First, is Mr. Bradlaugh's informal repetition of the words of the oath a taking of the oath? Secondly, if it is not, has Mr. Bradlaugh vacated his seat and rendered himself liable to pecuniary penalties? Thirdly, is the attempt to take the oath such an affront to the House as will warrant punishment? Upon the last question there can be little doubt that Mr. Bradlaugh deserves and Parliament is entitled to inflict punishment of some sort. Mr. Bradlaugh is refused permission to take the oath, and in the face and in defiance of the whole House he advances to the table and goes through the form which the House had declared in his lips would be a farce. Whether it would be most expedient to visit Mr. Bradlaugh's conduct with expulsion or to select some chastisement less congenial to Mr. Bradlaugh himself, will be a matter for the consideration of the House. Most persons will be disposed to agree that Mr. Bradlaugh's action will have damaged him immensely in the opinion even of his friends and, as he may find, of the electors of his constituency. But the worst of it is that Mr. Bradlaugh's detriment is achieved at the expense of the dignity of the House. We would ask, further, what guarantee there is against the repetition of these scenes and against the revival of the difficulties which led to them. Mr. Bradlaugh may be expelled, and he may fail to secure re-election for Northampton. But there is nothing to prevent another constituency adopting Mr. Bradlaugh, or, failing him, an analogue of Mr. Bradlaugh. There is no prospect of rest, in fact, from these interminable scenes of confusion and indecorum unless a bill should be passed to obviate their recurrence. In jostling with Mr. Bradlaugh, the House gets the worst of it. Why allow a state of things to continue in which it is possible to jostle with Mr. Bradlaugh or another of his opinions?

Mr. Bradlaugh, the position which he legally occupies, after the monstrous travesty of Tuesday, is by no means clear. That he took the oath, in one sense, is as certain as that the manner in which he took it was not in accordance with the formalities of the House, which require that the oath shall be "solemnly and publicly made and subscribed." The Attorney-General declined to express an opinion "whether what the member for Northampton had done had been a taking of the oath" within the meaning of the Statute. "The House," he continued, "had prescribed no manner in which it should be taken, except that it should be taken at the table. Whether all the conditions as to the taking of the oath had been fulfilled, in face of the resolution that Mr. Bradlaugh should not take it," Sir Henry James refused to say. The occasion of these remarks was a motion of Lord Randolph Churchill, declaring that a vacancy had occurred in the borough of Northampton, and charging Mr. Bradlaugh with having "since his election at the House of Commons without having taken or subscribed the Oath, according to law." This resolution was, of course, equivalent to one for Mr. Bradlaugh's expulsion, and the House of Commons was well advised in adjourning the debate.

The *Daily News* observes:—Mr. Bradlaugh has of course put himself in a false position by his direct disobedience to a resolution of the House. He has put into the hands of his opponents a strong weapon. The House might proceed to expel him on the ground of this disobedience. On the other hand it is possible that he may be found to have legally complied with the obligation of the statute by taking the oath by surprise in the face of the whole House. Mr. Labouchere appealed for delay in order that the legal point might be tried; but Mr. Gladstone pointed out with great force, as the Attorney-General had already intimated, that the question at issue was one which ought to be decided as a national one only.

Lord DUNSTAN asked whether naval and military officers would be on the new committee.

Lord GRANVILLE stated that the report of the Departmental Committee would be presented to Parliament. The inquiry was restricted to the new committee work of a practical and scientific nature, and had reference to the approaches to the tunnel on the English side and the precautions which would be necessary to prevent the tunnel being made use of by an enemy in case of war. When the Government had received the report of this committee they would consider it and advise both Houses as to the course which, in their opinion, should be adopted with respect to the two Bills relating to the Tunnel scheme which were now awaiting the decision of Parliament.

The Augmentation of Benefices Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes to 6 o'clock.

standing the formal opposition of the Controllers-General, to give the Chamber the right of voting the Budget. It must, however, not be forgotten that Sherif Pasha's Ministry only fell because it would not disregard the opposition offered by the English and French Governments to the claim put forward by the Chamber to vote the Budget. To accept accomplished facts is, therefore, to accept the most serious outrage which has been committed against the influence of England and France; positively to annihilate the influence of the Controllers, who have no basis of power but that which they derive from their Government. It would be a profound illusion not herein to see the end of a series of measures which will not leave standing any of the reforms introduced in the course of late years. The days may already be foreseen when the financial disorders which were remedied by the Commission of Inquiry and Commission of Liquidation will reappear."

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, TUESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Frances Drummond. The Princess Beatrice walked out attended by Miss Noel, Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, K.C.M.G., arrived at the Castle yesterday afternoon, and was introduced to her Majesty by Lord Thurloe, Lord in Waiting, preceded by Sir Albert Woods, Garter King of Arms, bearing the insignia of Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and was invested by the Queen with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Order. The Duke of Connaught was present with her Majesty during the ceremony. Major-General Sir Evelyn Wood, G.C.M.G., and Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir H. Ponsonby, K.C.B., had the honour of being included in her Majesty's dinner party. The Queen walked out this evening attended by the Hon. Horatio Stopford, Viscount Torrington and Captain Edwards, R.E., who succeeded Lord Thurloe and Colonel the Hon. A. Liddell as Lord and Groom in Waiting.

The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tywhitt Wilson, was present at the christening, in St. James's Palace on Tuesday, of the eldest son of the Earl and Countess of Rosebery, and stood sponsor to him. His Royal Highness dined with the Earl of Rosebery at Lansdowne House in the evening, and Princess Eugenie visited the Prince and Princess of Wales.

The Prince of Wales honoured the Earl of Rosebery by his company at dinner on Tuesday at Lansdowne House, Berkeley-square. There were present to meet the Prince—the Duke of Cleveland, the Marquis of Hartington, M.P., Earl Granville, K.G., Earl Spencer, K.G., the Earl of Kimberley, the Right Hon. Lord Northbrook, Earl Stanhope, Earl Sydney, Lord Carrington, Lord Elcho, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir V. W. Harcourt, M.P., Colonel the Hon. E. Primrose, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Mr. Christopher Sykes, M.P., Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Mr. W. H. Russell, the Rev. W. Rogers, Mr. F. Knollys, Mr. Samuel Mr. Cockeral, Mr. Calcraft, and the Hon. H. T. Tywhitt Wilson (waiting on the Prince of Wales).

The Duke and Duchess of Bedford entertained the Princess Mary Adelaide (Duchess of Teck) and the Duke of Teck at dinner at their residence in Eaton-square on Tuesday evening, when there were present to meet the distinguished guests the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn and Lady Georgiana Hamilton, the Earl and Countess of Saffron, the Countess Spencer, the Earl of Fife, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord Cremona, Colonel Hon. F. Bridgeman, Colonel Digby, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baring, and Mr. Charteris. Later they received a small and early party.

The Earl and Countess of Malmesbury have left Heron Court for Bath. His lordship is under treatment for acute gout.

Bishop Clapham, the Archdeacon of London and General of the Forces, is present unable to fulfil his duties as canon in residence at St. Paul's owing to indisposition. The Archdeacon, since his retirement from the diocese of Colombo, Ceylon, has been a frequent preacher in London, and taken most of the confirmations for the bishop. This, combined with his duties of chaplain-general, and widen the breach which has been so wantonly made between the two by far most powerful and populous Empires of the European Continent. One day we learn that a Russian Consul in one of the Balkan Principalities has, if anything, out-Heroded Herod, and hurled against Germany and Germany's ally insults grosser than those so heedlessly flung in the same direction by the ablest General in the Russian service. Another day we hear of German statesmen intriguing with Hungary by setting up from their allegiance to her, aiming to attain the end by encouraging the hare-brained "Party of Independence" in the almost inconceivable folly from which it derives at once its name and its condemnation. Such indirect blows at Germany, through her ally, naturally only tend to deepen the prevailing bitterness.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN CRISIS.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphed on Tuesday night:—

"The German press, throughout Germany, continues to publish throughout German speech continues unabated. Of these one thing which could have allayed the national indignation and alarm, it was a prompt, candid, and unmistakable disavowal of Skobelev's insults by the Government of the Czar. If, moreover, there was one thing which, in German official and non-official circles, was this morning regarded as certain, it was that in the course of the day we should hear that such a full, plain, and prompt repudiation had actually been made by Russia.

Such being the universal feeling here, it is difficult to exaggerate the profound dismay and indignation produced by the news received this afternoon from St. Petersburg respecting the lukewarm and half-hearted explanations published by the Russian official paper.

The fact that the Czar would, without delay, administer pointed rebuke to the offender, and thus soothe the wounded susceptibilities of the German nation, has been egregiously disappointed. And this disappointment, in its effects, is almost equivalent to the infliction of another actual insult.

Moreover, everything we hear only contributes to aggravate the popular excitement, and widen the breach which has been so wantonly made between the two by far most powerful and populous Empires of the European Continent. One day we learn that a

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EGYPT AND THE POWERS.

The following document was signed by the Controllers-General, MM. de Blignières and Colvin, at Cairo, on the 6th inst.:—

"When the decree regulating the powers of the Controllers was issued, the royal power belonged to the Khedive, and by delegation to his Ministers. If the Controllers

were confined to the right of giving advice it was to be presumed that their advice would receive just appreciation. This expectation has been realized, and the financial situation of the country, which was so grave two years ago, is now as prosperous. But since then the power has shifted. It now belongs to the Chamber of Delegates and several military chiefs whose influence in the Chamber submits to this. This profound alteration in the institutions of the country has been effected gradually. The authority of the Khedive and his Ministers, shaken by the military riot of February 1, 1880, has been getting daily weaker. Things have come to such a pass that a Chamber of Delegates which under the reign of the ex-Khedive gave many proofs of severity, adhering to the most rigid and final financial measures, does not hesitate now to demand rights incompatible with the social condition of the country. It has gone the length of obliging the Khedive to change the Ministry which enjoyed his confidence, and under the pressure of several officers, of forcing on him as Premier the Minister of War. The Khedive's power no longer exists. In these new conditions it little matters whether the intention is affirmed or not of interfering with the powers of the Controllers. By the very force of things they become inefficient when confronted not with the Khedive and Ministers freely appointed by him, but with a Chamber and an army. The Khedive and the Ministers he appointed could not assume towards public opinion and foreign Governments the responsibility of measures in which the Controllers-General object in the report they have a right to publish. This was the original intent of our powers. It has thus far sufficed; but it becomes perfectly illusory confronted with the Ministers of the Chamber and the army, who will only be accessible to the influence of the officers and delegates from whom they derive their powers. In fact, it has come to this already, for the Ministry which has just been formed is about, notwithstanding

the negotiations with France for a Tariff Treaty have now finally broken down, and all that is under discussion is the desirability of concluding a Treaty conceding the most favoured nation treatment.

The Select Committee of the House of Lords

on the Irish Land Bill will be nominated on

Wednesday, and probably meet for the first time on Monday. The Duke of Somerset has been asked to act as Chairman of the Committee. Lord Salisbury, Lord Cairns, and Lord Dunraven will probably sit upon it.

(FROM THE "DAILY NEWS.")

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IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The LORD CHANCELLOR took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.

Lord BURKE, for Lord DONOUGHMORE, asked whether the evidence as to the proposed Channel Tunnel taken by the Departmental Committee would be laid before Parliament, and whether the new committee on the subject would sit with closed doors. It was suggested that, as one of the two companies which proposed to make a tunnel under the Channel was under the immediate presidency of a prominent official of her Majesty's Government, the new committee ought to be a strong and impartial one.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY was of opinion that the Government should give their early attention to this matter.

Lord BRABOURNE asked what position we should hold in the eyes of France if, having got our own way to the making of the tunnel before the feasibility of that work was proved, we now set ourselves against it when its feasibility was proved.

The MARQUIS of BATH submitted that the observations of Lord Brabourne were out of order, and that it was not becoming in that noble lord, who was a director of a company promoting one of the tunnel schemes, to make use of his position in that House to advocate the making of a tunnel, seeing that the question at issue was one which ought to be decided as a national one only.

Lord DUNSTAN asked whether naval and military officers would be on the new committee.

Lord GRANVILLE stated that the report of the Departmental Committee would be presented to Parliament. The inquiry was restricted to the new committee work of a practical and scientific nature, and had reference to the approaches to the tunnel on the English side and the precautions which would be necessary to prevent the tunnel being made use of by an enemy in case of war. When the Government had received the report of this committee they would consider it and advise both Houses as to the course which, in their opinion, should be adopted with respect to the two Bills relating to the Tunnel scheme which were now awaiting the decision of Parliament.

The Augmentation of Benefices Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

Their Lordships adjourned at 25 minutes to 6 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE LORDS AND THE IRISH LAND ACT.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE gave notice that he will oppose Mr. GLOUCESTER's vote of censure on the House of Lords.

MR. BRADLAUGH.

After the questions Mr. LABOUCHERE moved the issue of a new writ for Northampton in the room of Mr. Bradlaugh, who by the various resolutions passed by the House had been prevented from taking the oath. The practical result of these resolutions, he insisted, was to disqualify Mr. Bradlaugh from taking his seat, and all the precedents—which he examined seriatim—established that whenever the House disqualifies a member it always vacates the seat and issued a new writ.

Lord R. CHURCHILL, holding that the Resolution as it stood implied that the House had treated Mr. Bradlaugh arbitrarily, proposed a resolution at the close of it declaring that Mr. Bradlaugh was "disqualified by law," which he contended truly represented the state of the case.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL opposed both motion and amendment, holding that the effect of each was equally to expel Mr. Bradlaugh, for which no case had been made. The precedents were for the most part inapplicable, except that of Baron Rothschild, which he showed established that a seat could not be declared vacant unless the member had sat and voted without taking the oath. As to Lord R. Churchill's amendment, if Mr. Bradlaugh was disqualified he ought not to have been elected, but that was a matter for an election petition and not for the House.

Sir H. GIFFARD, while not agreeing altogether with the Attorney-General as to the effect of the Rothschild precedent, asked whether this motion was made with Mr. Bradlaugh's consent, to which Mr. Labouchere replied that it was made at his request.

Sir J. MOWBRAY maintained that the seat was not vacant, and Mr. Rylands, who was of the same opinion, urged the Government to prevent further waste of time by undertaking to legislate. Colonel MAKINS, Mr. S. Hill, Mr. SERGEANT SIMON, Mr. NEWDEGATE, and Mr. S. NORTHCOTE made some observations, and Sir S. NORTHCOTE asked what could be the meaning of this strange and suspicious move. If the electors of Northampton desired the seat to be vacated, why had not Mr. Bradlaugh applied for the Chiltern Hundreds? As the matter stood he saw no reason for issuing the writ.

THE SPEAKER then proceeded to put the question. The final clause of Mr. Labouchere's motion reciting the reason for issuing a new writ in the room of Charles Bradlaugh, Esq., and in this curtailed form it was negatived by 307 to 18.

Mr. BRADLAUGH, who had been sitting under the gallery during the debate, at the close of the division took up a position at the Bar, and when the numbers had been declared he walked up to the table. Without waiting for the Clerk to meet him, he took a small book from his pocket (presumably a New Testament), and reciting the form of oath in an audible voice

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Great-Britain.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 23—24, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Donoughmore has given notice in the House of Lords that he will move for the appointment of a certain number of Peers as the Committee to inquire into the working of the Irish Land Act of 1881 and the condition of Ireland. A good deal was said in advance about the number of Liberal Peers who were ready to take part in the Committee, and who thus, it was suggested, were to reduce almost to nothingness the influence of Mr. Gladstone's opposition to the project. The Liberal Peers who are named on the Committee, and who, we suppose, have consented to serve, are not men of a stamp whose defection, if it be a defection, is likely to bring great discouragement to the Liberals of England generally. The Duke of Somerset is on the list, and the Duke of Somersett has mainly distinguished himself during recent years by the perverse ingenuity which he displays in trying to thwart and to worry all Liberal Governments. Lord Brabourne also has consented to act on the committee. But Lord Brabourne has steadily sat on the cross benches during his short career in the House of Lords. He has almost invariably opposed whatever Mr. Gladstone's Government has done, or tried to do, in regard to Ireland and its systems, and he has, we believe, of late definitely severed himself from all connection with the Liberal party on the ground that he does not approve of the policy that party is following. Lord Dunraven is an Irish landlord first and a Liberal afterwards, and he is one of those who strongly supported the appointment of the Committee in the first instance. Lord Clarendon is known to the world in general as the son of a distinguished statesman. Not much is known of him beyond this, except the fact that he, too, we believe, habitually takes his seat on the cross benches. Lord Penzance is a lawyer, and nothing else. Lord Carstairs is not a tower of strength to the Liberal cause. There does not, therefore, seem to be much evidence in the constitution of the Committee that many who can seriously be called Liberals are likely to agree with the majority of the House of Lords, and to disagree with the opinions of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville. We regret none the less that the House of Lords should not have had discretion enough to withdraw from the position which they have unnecessarily and heedlessly taken up. They might have withdrawn from that position all the more readily because it is not supposed that the principal leaders of the Conservative party were of themselves much inclined to press for the appointment of the Committee. But if the House of Lords will persevere in their course, and if Mr. Gladstone should find it necessary to persevere with the motion of which he has given notice, we fear that the resolution must be all but disastrous to the work of the session. Mr. Gladstone will have to begin on Monday by proposing that the Standing Orders of the House be suspended in order to allow the vote on the proceedings of the House of Lords to be taken before the orders of the day. Sir Stafford Northcote has given notice that he will oppose this motion, and on this a preliminary debate will be raised which may possibly take up the whole of the evening. Then will come the main question, the vote of censure, as we may call it, on the recent action of the House of Lords. No doubt by this time the partisan feeling on the Opposition side of the House of Commons will be pretty well stirred up, and the blood of the country squires will be hot for fight. Many influential Tories already make no secret of their determination to keep up the debate at least a month, that is to say, virtually until Easter. Audacious as this proposition may seem, it is nevertheless perfectly within the power of those who threaten to make good their threat. The Government have only two nights each week at their disposal, and it would not take any very surprising effort of organized obstruction to spread the debate over eight or nine such nights—that is, over four weeks of the Session—or indeed, if necessary, to bring the discussion quite up to the time when the House may be expected to adjourn for the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, the House would naturally resume the debate on the new rules for the regulation of business, and the man would be sanguine indeed who expected that that discussion would be brought to a close much before Whitsuntide. There, then, is the best part of a Session already marked out for doom, and we have said nothing of the interruptions to a continuous debate on either of the subjects already mentioned by the necessary intervention of nights given up to Supply. Would it not be possible to find some way out of this difficulty? Would it not be possible for Mr. Gladstone to show us the way out of it? Why, for example, might not Mr. Gladstone come down to the House of Commons, explain there as fully as the occasion required the strong reasons which compelled the Government to object to the appointment of a Committee such as that proposed by the House of Lords, announce that the Government would lend it no assistance, and take on themselves no responsibility for the disturbance which it might create in Ireland, and then also announce that the Government preferred not to throw away any of the short and precious time at their disposal by proposing a resolution in condemnation of what the House of Lords have done?—*Daily News.*

also the wild aspirations that prompted them. But what can the Czar and his best advisers do in presence of such a formidable national movement as Panslavism, in its present phase, headed by determined, unscrupulous, and able men like Ignatoff, Skobeleff, Akasoff, and colleagues with almost unlimited pecuniary resources at their disposal?

It is not as if those who support Panslavism were one uniform body of right-minded people, and the welfare of their country. That represents but a small minority of the Russian people. Besides the Panslavists there are Nihilists, Socialists, and Revolutionaries of different categories, and in the background a host of corrupt and unprincipled officials to whose malpractices the present desperate condition of Russia is chiefly due. The Czar is more to be pitied than blamed, and his many domestic virtues are a guarantee for the conscientious performance of his public duties. But he is paralysed by his surroundings, and his situation at the present moment is in many respects that of a monarch in custody. Ignatoff, his chief gaoler, is also his evil genius, and all intents and purposes the present ruler of the Russian Empire, and is only waiting for natural events to vacate the Chanceryship to seize the post occupied for the moment held officially, at least, by Prince Gortschakoff. Therefore, when speaking of official circles in Russia, it must be well understood what is implied thereby. It is only in a certain measure the Czar, and most distinctly not M. de Giers and those members of the Government who share his views. It is Ignatoff and a handful of political desperadoes who stand at his elbow, and who, through personal interest and ambition rather than conviction, have embraced the Panslavist faith. They were kept in check by the Czar, but the reigning Emperor of Russia had, for many years, entertained Panslavist ideas of a monarchial character when he ascended the throne. Consequently the party saw their opportunity when he succeeded his father. The visit to Moscow and Ignatoff's appointment were eloquent symptoms of the ascendancy gained by the Panslavists, but there came a moment which I have reasons of my own for connecting with the Dantzig interview, when Alexander III. understood that he could follow his friends no further without imperilling the interests of his Empire. Unfortunately the Panslavists were then too powerful and too numerous for the Emperor to effect an abrupt separation, and unfortunately, too, his forced seclusion has since then placed him more than ever in their hands. If he were gifted with the energy of his grandfather Nicholas, he might have been a man and a ruler commanding respect and awe, but the absence of a grave moment. That Skobeleff was but the spokesman of those whose influence in Russia is now predominant admits no doubt whatever. But there is equally good reason to believe that his Paris speeches have annoyed the Czar, and seriously embarrassed the Russian Foreign Office officials.

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, THURSDAY.

The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck drove out yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty's daughter included Princess Sophie, Princess Leopold, the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, and Princess Helen, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Baroness Doebeck, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, Sir John and Lady Cowell, General Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Colonel Sir John Cartairs M'Neill. The Queen walked and drove this morning, attended by the Hon. Horatio Stopford. The Duchess of Connaught went out accompanied by Princess Beatrice. Prince Leopold and Princess Helen of Waldeck drove out, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, and the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont, attended by Major A. Egerton, Baron von Stockhausen, Captain von der Wenzel, and Major-General Du Plat, left Windsor at 10.30 a.m. for London. The Prince of Waldeck remains at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Connaught visited the Prince and Princess of Wales on Thursday, and remained to luncheon. The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon. H. Tyrwhitt-Wilson, dined with Lord Carrington and the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen at Arms in their mess-room at St. James's Palace on Thursday evening.

The French Ambassador left London on Thursday morning for Paris, travelling by the midland train service from Charing-cross. He returns this week to London to deliver his letters of recall.

The Duke of Roxburgh has returned to Floors Castle from Taymouth Castle, where he had made a visit to the Earl of Brechin.

The Duke of Marlborough and Lady Churchill are at present visiting the Duke and Duchess of Roxburgh at Floors Castle.

The Lady Fanny Marjoribanks has left Floors for London.

The Earl and Countess of Selkirk have left town for Scotland.

The usual daily telegram from Egerton Lodge, Melton Mowbray, did not reach Lord Wilton's town residence in Grosvenor-square till between six and seven o'clock on Thursday evening. Its tenor was not so favourable as might have been expected from those of Tuesday and Wednesday last. It was as follows:—"Lord Wilton passed a quiet night, but his strength is not well maintained to-day." A private telegram subsequently received and expresses the earl to be in a very critical condition. Sir Henry and Lady Alice Das Vaus left town on Thursday afternoon for Melton Mowbray. Viscountess Grey de Wilton is at Melton.

The Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke of Cambridge sent twice during Thursday and inquiry after the latest information respecting his lordship's condition.

Sir Alfred and Lady Slade have removed their town residence from Elvaston-place to 3, Lyall-street, Belgrave-square.

Captain and Mrs. Howard have arrived at Thomas's Hotel from Dublin.

Mr. and Mrs. Von Hoffman have arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Berlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Tweed have left Thomas's Hotel for New York.

A marriage is arranged between Miss Frances Long, fourth daughter of the late Mr. Richard P. Long, Rood Ashton, and Mrs. Long, of Marly, and sister of the present member for North Wilts, and Mr. de Windt, only surviving son of the late Mr. de Windt of Blundens Alley, Wilts.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in April, between Frederick Robert St. John, H.B.M., Minister in Central America, son of the late Hon. Ferdinand St. John, and Miss Isabella Fitzmaurice, second daughter of the Hon. James Fitzmaurice, captain Royal Navy, of Fernley, Maidenhead.

Lieut.-Col. Hon. Daniel Greville Finch, late of the 24th Foot, died at his lodgings, in Bury-street, St. James's, on Wednesday night after a short and severe illness. The deceased colonel was the second and youngest son of Heneage, 5th Earl of Aylesford, by Lady Augusta Sophia, fourth daughter of George 2d Earl of Warwick, and was born 26th April, 1811. He entered the army in May, 1815, and was appointed captain in the 1st Foot, December, 1853, became major in 1855, and Lieut.-Colonel 24th Foot in 1862. Soon afterwards he was placed on half pay, and retired from the army in 1873.

Mr. Rylands made some discursive com-

ments on the landlord policy which made this expenditure necessary, and Mr. Gorst and Sir W. Barttelot insisted that in the absence of details Mr. Childer's statement was not satisfactory.

Lord F. Cavendish, speaking for the Civil Services, under these heads, including £35,000 for the Law Courts, would be about £200,000.

Mr. Sclater-Booth, Colono. Barron, and Mr. Sullivan spoke. Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Henry joined in representing to the Government that the question of arrears lay at the root of the present disturbed state of Ireland. Mr. Biggar made some characteristic remarks, in the course of which, alluding to Mr. II. Gladstone's visit to Ireland, as he said, "to superintend evictions," he recommended the Prime Minister if he wished to establish his 'Young Hopeful' to apply for the reversion of Marwood's place for him. This drew from Mr. Gladstone an indignant contention that he was not fit to be pitted against the Prime Minister.

Lord Percy wished to withdraw the motion, but the Irish members would not permit this, and on a division the motion was negatived by 24 to 12.

Mr. CHAPLIN asked for some explanation of the threatened withdrawal of police protection from caretakers placed in charge of Irish farms, and Mr. Forster, in reply, explained that the Government could not undertake to furnish police protection in every case where it was asked, but each case must be considered on its own merits. He admitted fully that it was the duty of the Government to protect life and property wherever it was in danger, but they must reserve a discretion, and he added that the caretakers would be at liberty to defend themselves.

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LONDON, FEBRUARY 25—26, 1882.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

The Saturday Review thinks the decision of the Lords to appoint a committee to inquire into the working of the Land Act and its effect on the condition of Ireland may perhaps be regretted; but it was a mistake made honestly and with good intentions, and has been met by a challenge on the part of the Government which is quite unnecessary, which must be inoperative, and which will lead to a lamentable waste of the time which the Government professes to be anxious to economise. They did not wish to drive the Government from office, or to embarrass it in its grave contest with anarchy, but merely to show that, as private individuals, they were suffering unjust pecuniary losses. Unfortunately they so shaped their motion that, if it was literally carried out, the Committee must very gravely embarrass the Government. The Lords have not meant to censure the Government, and it is useless for Mr. Gladstone to parade the majority which on such a subject he can notoriously command. Lord Granville might have put things right without any appeal being made to the Commons. If he had stated, after both parties had had a day or two to deliberate, that he understood the appointment of the Committee was not meant as a censure on the Government; that they were fully alive to the necessity of rigidly controlling the action of the Committee; and that they would be no parties to an unfair attack on those whose difficulties in a time of great delay they appreciated. The result, which is the most that can be attained after a six nights' debate in the Commons, would have been arrived at in a few minutes. The Government would have vindicated itself, and the Committee of the Lords would have gone on, but gone on in a very measured and moderate way.

The Times remarks that it must be admitted that in this matter the greatest difficulties have been thrown in the way of the return of the Lords to a more sensible course. The Prime Minister has not set the example of perfectly subordinating personal or party considerations to the paramount claims of the public interest. But if Mr. Gladstone made retreat in the first instance harder than it need have been, the House of Lords has now, by its own action, added yet further to the difficulty. To a false step made in ignorance it has added another, made with full knowledge of the direction in which it is moving. In theory, of course, what it has done is irreversible; but in practice there are means of escape from a false position. It behoves the House of Lords in such a case as this to rise far above technical argument concerning its independence of the House of Commons, and to set aside as altogether unworthy of consideration the alleged loss of prestige upon which some of its advisers dwell.

The Standard says:—The speech of the Foreign Secretary, though couched in a studiously conciliatory strain, offered nothing like a real and tangible concession. The peers cannot be expected ignorantly and gratuitously to surrender. With a very small amount of tact and conciliation the whole controversy might have been avoided. The enemies of the House of Lords and of the Conservatives will strenuously labour to represent the appointment of the Committee as a party move. It will be for the members of the Committee to demonstrate by their action how groundless is the charge. The House of Lords has taken upon itself a great duty: the responsibility which it entails is proportionate.

The Daily Telegraph says:—Lord Granville put on Mr. Gladstone's action a construction intended to take off the rough edge. He insisted that it was not a vote of censure on the House of Lords, but a vote designed to support the Land Commissioners. Regarded from that standpoint it may be defended, yet no such explanation covers the whole ground.

The Daily News says:—The Conservative members of the House of Lords have, we fear, rendered all but impossible the compromise which we recommended yesterday, and which, as we have since had occasion to observe, commanded itself very strongly to Liberals of all sections. We do not remember to have heard the war trumpet blown with a more determined blast, and with less excuse for its summons. We have only to repeat that unless some unexpected concession be made, the present Session of Parliament is practically doomed to barrenness.

The Morning Post asks:—Why did not Lord Granville, at the outset, specify the "grave objections" to the appointment of the Committee entertained by the Ministers? The true explanation of his reticence is probably this—that Mr. Gladstone saw in the situation an opportunity of posing as the leader of "popular opinion" against the "privileged classes." In default of any better "cry," the Premier may yet be driven to take over from Mr. Bradlaugh the "abolition of the House of

Lords;" and the present affords a good opportunity for testing how far such a movement would be acceptable to the country.

The Morning Advertiser says the attitude of the House of Lords is in every respect worthy of their traditions and their place. They have put their foot down in this matter, and we hope they will not budge an inch in retreat. They are in the right.

THE CRISIS IN EASTERN EUROPE.

The Spectator is not disposed to undervalue the seriousness of the crisis in Eastern Europe, but the true reasons for alarm are frequently overlooked. The extreme desire of many Englishmen, and of the Jews who control so much of the Continental press and telegraph agencies, to cast aspersions on the Government of Russia, creates a wide misapprehension of the facts. There is danger in the air, but it does not arise from the action of any Government, unless it be that of Austria, and even that is more doubtful. It is as nearly certain as any fact dependent on individual wills, can be, that the three "Imperial Powers" earnestly desire peace for the present. The Czar dreads the very notion of a great war, in which a defeat would shake his Throne to pieces, and amid which the restoration of financial safety, upon which he is intent, must necessarily be abandoned. The German Chancellor, again, though probably willing, out of a permanent dread of a Franco-Russian coalition, to accept war, is obviously not hurrying one on, directs his agents to minimise the importance of Skobeleff's speeches, and is well aware of the nearly invincible antipathy with which his master—now a man of vast age, and full to repletion of successes—regards the possibility of another war during his own lifetime. Finally, the Austrian Government, besides its habitual dread of great disturbances, deters the notion of a war in which the feelings of its own subjects would be divided, which would cleave a deep chasm between itself and the Slavs of the Balkans, and amidst the Dalmatians, the Bosnians, and the Herzegovinians might assert successfully their own independence. The Governments will maintain peace, if they can, at present, and the real danger arises from movements within Russia itself, which may prove powerful enough to force the hand of the Czar. Of the precise depth, and still more of the precise degree of impetus in these movements, no Englishman can know much, and it is absurd to be dogmatic about them; but the evidence on the surface is not reassuring. As to the merits of the question nominally at issue, the real question being the comparative strength of the two races most Englishmen will, we think, agree. Bosnia and Herzegovina were handed over to Austria by a European award, as fully as the Ionian Islands were handed over to Great Britain; and though the Bosnians were suffering unjust pecuniary losses. Unfortunately they so shaped their motion that, if it was literally carried out, the Committee must very gravely embarrass the Government. The Lords have not meant to censure the Government, and it is useless for Mr. Gladstone to parade the majority which on such a subject he can notoriously command. Lord Granville might have put things right without any appeal being made to the Commons. If he had stated, after both parties had had a day or two to deliberate, that he understood the appointment of the Committee was not meant as a censure on the Government; that they were fully alive to the necessity of rigidly controlling the action of the Committee; and that they would be no parties to an unfair attack on those whose difficulties in a time of great delay they appreciated. The result, which is the most that can be attained after a six nights' debate in the Commons, would have been arrived at in a few minutes. The Government would have vindicated itself, and the Committee of the Lords would have gone on, but gone on in a very measured and moderate way.

The Economist believes that the position of Austria in the great struggle between the Slav and the German which so many acute observers believe to be approaching, is not so bad as that of Russia, but it is not simple, and it is not satisfactory. The best point in it is that there is a head to the State. The Emperor Francis Joseph has to keep Bosnia-Herzegovina against the will of the Bosnian people, who are annoyed with his agents, and excited with the chance of union with Servia, their natural ally, and Dalmatia, their natural sea-board; and against the will of Russia, which desires influence among all Slavs to keep them by force, and yet, if possible, without a war. A war would for him be a contest for existence, and he shrinks from it with the dread which all ancient and legitimate princes regard enterprises involving such stakes and a necessity for revolutionary energy. If he were victorious, it would be by the aid of Germany, and he would have to enter into new and difficult combinations, in which all the work of pacifying savage territories would fall to his share; while if he were defeated, his Empire might break up, and in the best event his sway over his Slav subjects would be almost gone. He must, therefore, avoid war, and yet in order to keep the provinces war must be risked. The Government would have vindicated itself, and the Committee of the Lords be thought to be incapable of on other grounds it ought to be given up.

Lord DONOUGHMORE felt it impossible to adopt the course recommended by Lord Lansdowne. In the debate of Friday night that the objections put forward to the appointment of the committee were serious, and that an objection which appeared to him more serious was that the Committee would be one of the "landlord interest" sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity on the Irish Land Commissioners. The announcements on the subject made this week both Houses rendered the situation still more grave. As to the proposed Committee, every member of it, with one doubtful exception, was an avowed opponent of the Irish policy of her Majesty's Government. He thought that the report of such a Committee would only increase the bitterness existing in Ireland in connection with the Irish Land Act. He recommended the adjournment of the debate on the motion, with the view of postponing the appointment of the Committee or limiting the inquiry, as he understood that the Government would not object to inquiry at a future time.

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LONDON, FEBRUARY 26—27, 1882.

THE LORDS AND THE COMMONS.

Lord Salisbury's emphatic declaration that Mr. Gladstone's motion must be regarded as a direct attack upon the constitutional position of the House of Lords, would of itself put almost insurmountable difficulty in the way of any satisfactory arrangement. On the one hand, it stirs up the bitterest feeling of party and of class among Lord Salisbury's own followers; on the other, it would make concession coming from the Ministerial side seem like an acknowledgment that such an attack had been intended and had to be abandoned. Friday was the first day when Lord Salisbury had an opportunity of showing what his leadership of the Conservative party was likely to be on any really important occasion; and he showed only too clearly how unfitted he is by temper and by turn of mind for such a place. Shakespeare has a Salisbury who is addressed as "Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son." We have a Salisbury now whom it would be hardly beyond the bounds of propriety or of fairness to call the mad misleader of an occasionally brain-sick party. On Friday the House of Lords might, without the slightest derogation even to their fancied dignity, have withdrawn from the position into which they had been thrust so suddenly a few evenings before. The Prime Minister and the Government had interposed with the whole force of their responsibility and authority, and a moment's cool consideration would have told the Peers that the country would expect them to give way. If they still believed in the necessity for the appointment of a Committee of landlords to inquire into the working of a Land Act, that has only just begun to be worked, they could have relieved their consciences and their souls by declaring that on the Government, and not on the House of Lords, would rest the blame of having prevented such a committee from being appointed. They could have withdrawn from the controversy with the expression of that famous hope that things might be none the worse that day twelve-month, which if events turned out one way would be a pious wish fulfilled, and if the other way a prophecy; but they have chosen their ground under Lord Salisbury's guidance, and we suppose they mean to hold it. They cannot be said to have been in any doubt as to the probable consequences of their unfortunate determination. Not only had they the Prime Minister's announcement in their minds when they decided on persevering, but it was that very announcement which, according to Lord Salisbury, induced them to persevere. Not only did they persist in spite of the Prime Minister's declaration that the course they threatened would be disastrous to the cause of order and good government in Ireland, but they made that very declaration another reason for their persistence. The English people would not have seen in the investigations of any amateur Committee of the House of Lords any serious menace to the stability of the Free Trade policy. But the Irish tenant-farmers will undoubtedly see in the appointment of a Committee of land-owning Peers to inquire into the working of the Land Act a very serious menace to the stability and the effective operation of that Act. It is possible to suppose that such a step as the appointment of such a Committee will not drive many a tenant-farmer still inclined to loyalty and the cause of order to declare in his despair that, after all, Mr. Parnell was right, that the House of Lords are too strong for Mr. Gladstone's best intentions, and that the Land League is the only body to which the Irish occupier can look for protection? We cannot therefore wonder that Mr. Gladstone should have been unwilling to allow the Lord's Committee to be appointed without obtaining from the House of Commons an emphatic declaration which shall relieve him and the Government from all share in the responsibility for so ill-omened a piece of work. If the Prime Minister could have seen his way to arrive at the same result by a declaration on the part of the Government without the necessity for a formal resolution and a debate in the House of Commons, we should have been glad; and such a course would have been possible, and might have been adopted, but for the unhappy precipitancy of the House of Lords on Friday. If such arrangement, of which even now we are unwilling to renounce all hope, be now impossible the blame must rest altogether on the House of Lords. Unfortunately the consequences will not have to be borne by them. A wasted Session will not trouble the Peers in particular. The inevitable postponement of most important legislation will not affect them more than it affects other people; not nearly so much as it will affect many other people. We may as well look the whole business straight in the face and recognise its full menace. If the Opposition, including the Irish party, with whom they are in more or less cordial alliance, should use their powers of debate with anything like the energy and perseverance that are expected of them, the real business of the Session may be regarded as already doomed to postponement. The Conservatives have in any case no particular wish to help the Government in useful legislation—the Irish party are always ready to obstruct. Lord Salisbury has

given an incitement to both bands which they will not be slow to act upon. They can, if they choose, prolong the debate until the eve of the Tory Recess. Many of the Tory party are loud in their proclamation that they can do this, and that they will do it. If the House meets after Easter with the discussion of the new Rules for its business still before it, then all we can say is that it will be impossible for the Government to pass one single measure this Session of all those which were announced in the Speech from the Throne. What wonder if people should begin to ask themselves whether there is really benefit enough to be had from the existence of a House of Peers to compensate for the injuries which its capricious and thoughtless action may sometimes inflict?—*Daily News.*

RUOMRS OF A DISSOLUTION.

The *Daily Telegraph* of yesterday says:—In political circles last night a belief was prevalent that, owing to the action adopted by the House of Lords on Friday last in appointing a committee of inquiry into the operation of the Land Act, and the consequent difficulty of continuing the government of Ireland, Mr. Gladstone had determined to place his resignation in the hands of her Majesty. Various conjectures are rife as to the immediate result of Mr. Gladstone's resignation, but in well-informed quarters it is believed that any attempt to form a new Liberal Ministry under Lord Hartington would fail, owing to the defection of the Radical section of the Cabinet. It is thought more probable that the crisis will be left to be settled by an appeal to the country, and that with this view Parliament will be dissolved at an early date.

ANGLO-FRENCH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

M. Tirard's Bill regulating the commercial relations between France and England has been well received thus far. The Committee to which it was referred on Thursday, after it had been promulgated in the Chamber of Deputies, has presented a favourable report upon it, and, after some discussion and after an authoritative explanation of its terms, it has been passed by the Chamber without a division. No time is to be lost in making further progress with it. M. Tirard does not look upon it as a final settlement of the question with which it deals. He has not given up all hope that the treaty negotiations may yet be renewed, and may be brought to a favourable conclusion. His Bill has been constructed to meet the emergency of the moment, to prevent, that is to say, the application of the general tariff to English goods on and after the 1st of March. The most favoured nation treatment which it affords to England carries with it a prolongation of the existing treaty until May 15. This was assumed by M. Rouvier, and, after some doubt had been expressed by M. Peyrat whether M. Rouvier's interpretation was correct, it was expressly confirmed by M. Tirard. The conventions, it appears, which have already been renewed with other nations, stipulate, in their case, for the maintenance until May 15 of the Anglo-French tariff of 1860. England, therefore, if she is to be as well treated as any other nation, will so long survive in partial prosperity simply by the introduction of the new industry of wine manufacture. This substitute will find itself in serious jeopardy of extinction when by the injurious political exigencies of French Ministries England is driven to open up and develop direct trade in wines with Spain and Italy, and her own great southern colonies. If the French determine to curtail their freedom of profiting as a nation by unrestricted exchange they curtail their opportunities of prosperous growth. We suffer to the extent to which this failing prosperity of a near market curtails the consumption of our goods in that market. We shall suffice it and whenever the high tariff lessens or altogether stops the consumption by the French of certain classes of our goods. All this is so far bad for us, but all this is far worse and far more injurious to France, we retain, while France gives up, the alternative of exchanging in numerous other markets what we do not want for what we do want; and what we can manufacture or supply cheapest for what others can manufacture or supply cheapest; and so we gain by the inevitable profits accruing to all exchange. These are the main economic results of no commercial treaty; and they are results which in course of time will lead the French to reconsider their position and attempt in some way or another to remedy the evils that necessarily arise when political exigencies interfere to the detriment of industrial progress. In the meantime, it would be ignorant folly on our part to give up the other of the two conditions of the successful supply of foreign markets—the condition, that is, which places us on an equality with all other foreign purveyors. But the two matters are distinct, and to confound them together is to breed misconceptions that may be fatal and must be injurious to much commercial and industrial enterprise.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

apply such an argument to such a point there must be most lamentable confusion of ideas. We seek a commercial treaty with a country in order that the inhabitants of that country may purchase of us goods at less than exorbitant rates, and that we may not be excluded altogether by prohibitive rates. Such is the function of a commercial treaty. But we seek a most-favoured-nation clause for altogether other reasons. By its means we endeavour to appear in that foreign market on equal terms with other foreign purveyors. The two objects are perfectly distinct and different. We are wanting to sell our goods in a market town. On the one hand we say to the gate-keeper, Do not you charge so high an entrance-fee that we shall be forced to put so high a price on our goods that purchasers in the market will be less willing or even unable to buy. On the other hand we say, Do not charge us more than you charge other purveyors from the outside. The two matters remain totally distinct not only in degree but in kind, and to confound together two objects so perfectly and fundamentally different is to create misconceptions and mistakes of which an intelligent people should be heartily ashamed. We wish to sell our goods in France; and we do not wish to be handicapped by paying larger entrance fees than are paid by other foreign purveyors. We wish to compete in supplying France with what she buys from abroad; but we wish most certainly to compete on equal terms with third nations. This is all to the advantage of France. For this purpose, but for this alone, we require a "most-favoured-nation" treaty. And this covers a most important division of our trade relations, and one the interests of which we can ill afford to ignore. As for the tariff under which we shall enter France in common with other foreigners that is a matter which affects France far more than it affects us. The "better terms" we hear so much about are better for us only in a minor degree, but in a very major degree for France. A very serious state of affairs will be surely induced in France if she finds herself stranded without facilities of commercial intercourse with her neighbours. For instance, her wine-growing industry is already in a condition of absolute shrinkage, and some of the older wine-growing districts have latterly survived in partial prosperity simply by the introduction of the new industry of wine manufacture. This substitute will find itself in serious jeopardy of extinction when by the injurious political exigencies of French Ministries England is driven to open up and develop direct trade in wines with Spain and Italy, and her own great southern colonies. If the French determine to curtail their freedom of profiting as a nation by unrestricted exchange they curtail their opportunities of prosperous growth. We suffer to the extent to which this failing prosperity of a near market curtails the consumption of our goods in that market. We shall suffice it and whenever the high tariff lessens or altogether stops the consumption by the French of certain classes of our goods. All this is so far bad for us, but all this is far worse and far more injurious to France, we retain, while France gives up, the alternative of exchanging in numerous other markets what we do not want for what we do want; and what we can manufacture or supply cheapest for what others can manufacture or supply cheapest; and so we gain by the inevitable profits accruing to all exchange. These are the main economic results of no commercial treaty; and they are results which in course of time will lead the French to reconsider their position and attempt in some way or another to remedy the evils that necessarily arise when political exigencies interfere to the detriment of industrial progress. In the meantime, it would be ignorant folly on our part to give up the other of the two conditions of the successful supply of foreign markets—the condition, that is, which places us on an equality with all other foreign purveyors. But the two matters are distinct, and to confound them together is to breed misconceptions that may be fatal and must be injurious to much commercial and industrial enterprise.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE TIGHT-LACING MANIA.

The clever and suggestive lecture on the "Dress of the Period," delivered on Saturday by Mr. Frederick Treves to an audience which crowded the Kensington Town Hall to overflowing, serves as an illustration, were any needed, of the deep and perennial interest attaching to the subject of dress:—

How far our present free condition is from the imaginary state of perfect raiment was abundantly illustrated by the diagrams, casts, and models exhibited by Mr. Treves in support of his views. Of course every one admits theoretically that tight lacing is injurious, just as every woman denies practically that she laces tight. Why it is perfect good faith. They have a sort of impression that a corset is a natural need, at least a temporary one, like a shoe to protect the foot or some thing on the head to cover it from rain and sun. Because they have been inured to the construction they believe it to be necessary. These probably are amongst the least culpable in respect of tight lacing, and yet they are bad examples. They do themselves a little harm, but not enough to produce patent and unmistakable results, and they encourage the use of stays amongst young women. But that tight lacing exists at present an extent nothing short of frightful may be proved beyond all doubt to any one who chooses to see. Girls may be seen by hundreds walking in the streets and parks whose waists excite horror and alarm in the beholder. The size of a normal healthy woman's waist is about twenty-eight inches in circumference, and its shape is oval. The waist of the costume of the period is twenty-one, and we have known extreme cases of eighteen and sixteen inches, and the shape is perfectly round. Of course this compression occurs, amongst greater evils, a wooden hardness, which one should have imagined, to the testimentary art of a timid adorer. Even in the score of attractiveness, these waspish waists are a mistake. The plates in fashion-books, which are, by the way, responsible for a great deal of mischief, exhibit forms which are shocking to every feeling of beauty or sense, but which happily are, as Mr. Treves assured his audience, in showing them a figure enlarged from a magazine of modes, incompatible with life. No woman could look like that and live. Again, the fashionable boot and shoe, with cuts of which the makers adorn their advertisements, are nothing but a parody on the Chinese deformity, which we regard with horror of custom and pity for the victim. The shape of the natural foot and the arrangement of the bones are totally disregarded, and the result, when placed side by side with the Chinese deformed and hideous member, differs in little from it.

Amateur talking on these matters is not of much use. The offender acquiesces gently in the censure and continues to offend. But when men of science take the matter up, and demonstrate the terrible results to the individual and the race of these vicious practices, women should not close their eyes and ears. Mothers should look to it. Mistresses of schools, matrons of establishments for the reception of girls and young women of every class—for the sake of every class and most practised perhaps in the middle and lower classes in authority over the young are responsible.—*Daily News.*

THE DRESS OF THE PERIOD.—On Saturday afternoon Mr. F. Treves, F.R.C.S., of the London Hospital, gave a lecture at the Kensington Town Hall, in connection with the National Health Society, on the subject of the Dress of the Period. Dr. Andrew Clark was to have presided, but had been called away into the country, and Professor Flower took the chair in his place. A letter from Dr. Clark was read, referring to Mr. Treves as an accomplished anatomist, a skilful surgeon, and a very thoughtful, able, and earnest man. The lecturer said the object of dress was to maintain an equal temperature over the body, but female dress failed to fulfil this object. Full evening dress might be said to divide the lady who wore it into frigidity and the temperature of the热带 zone. The greatest portion of the lecture was devoted to the subject of tight lacing, though French boots and shoes, trains, gloves, covers, the worn, crinolines, and other freaks of dress were noticed, and much amusement was caused by a quotation from a recent article in the *Daily News*, that "with this style of bonnet the mouth should be worn slightly opened." The true lines of the female form (with a waist of twenty-eight inches) were illustrated by a model of Thorwaldsen's *Venus*; the fashionable waist was shown by a costume on model, lent by Messrs. Shoolbred and Co., the waist measurement being twenty-one inches; and the "dressmaker's ideal" was depicted in a drawing from a fashion plate. With respect to the last, Mr. Treves said it was some consolation to know that the proportions represented were not inconsistent with life. Costumes on model were, he said, to be found in a costume museum of twenty-five inches round the waist, but even that implied a compression of at least three inches. He explained, and demonstrated by means of diagrams, the injurious effect of compression on the lungs, the heart, the stomach, and the liver, and quoted from the *Lancet*, and Dr. Danford Thomas, coroner for Central Middlesex, to show that death from tight-lacing was by no means uncommon. A fashionably-dressed woman, he said, must walk ungracefully; and no one ever had small waist naturally, except as the result of disease or deformity. For evening dress the lecturer spoke approvingly of the recently introduced "Greek costume," which was exhibited on a model. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Treves on the motion of Mr. Ernest Hart, seconded by Dr. Carpenter. The West was densely filled with ladies; and was unable to obtain admittance, that it was announced the lecture would be repeated on March 18.

THE DUNECHT MYSTERY.

An Aberdeen correspondent wrote on Sunday night:—What has for the last three months been known as the Dunecht mystery remains as great a mystery as ever. Its present revival is founded on the arrest of two persons supposed to have been connected with the snatching of the body of the late Earl of Balcarres from the family crypt last year. In the month of September last an anonymous letter which indicated that the body had been stolen was received by the Aberdeen agents of Lord Balcarres, giving information of the removal of the body. The letter, being evidently the work of some illiterate person, was considered at the time as a hoax and therefore disregarded. Shortly after the crime was discovered, however, another anonymous letter was received. It was signed "Nabob," and offered to restore the missing body on payment of £20,000. The present arrests have been made on Saturday night, and were made on the medium of newspaper advertisements with one of the parties arrested, such replies apparently emanating from several towns in Scotland. The replies, however, always coming from the same place, and the handwriting always bearing a striking resemblance to that of "Nabob," a warrant was granted last week for the arrest of this person. The arrest having been accomplished, the man, whose name is Thomas Kirkwood, a joiner by trade, was taken to London and brought before Lord Crawford, whose servant he had been for several years, and subsequently before the Scotland-yard authorities, but he refused to answer any questions about his connection or supposed connection with the robbery from the Dunecht tomb. On Saturday morning Kirkwood arrived in Aberdeen from London, under the charge of Inspector Swanson of Scotland Yard. It was apparently arranged that two other arrests should be made, and that the three prisoners should meet face to face in the County Constabulary Office in Aberdeen. Immediately on Kirkwood's arrival the latter are easily manipulated as gas, and are put to the same uses, electric bells and calls, and a united phonograph and telephonic receiver. The latter, being put on, the hammer goes on, sets the whole charge at a yard distance within, as I have said, a foot of my spine. Last week a man of whom I know something was less fortunate than myself; he received a charge of shot in his side, the accident occurring, as usual, in getting through a hedge. These attacks on the sanctity of life set me thinking, and in that mood, while at the Exhibition, and wondering what I should do if I had been shot a month ago, I came across Messrs. Silver's hammerless gun. I was struck with the principle, and the gentleman in charge, finding that I was not a novice, took the works to pieces and explained the action. I am bound to say it required but little explanation. Like all really clever inventions it is simple in the extreme. It depends upon no elaborate arrangements or springs. The trigger, as the internal spring, is a wire which is blocked—that is their natural state—and, until they are unblocked or released, the gun cannot be fired.

The story comes from New Zealand of a claimant to the Evelyn estates, comprising the property once known as the Deptford Dockyard. It is said that the celebrated John Evelyn gave over this property to the Government of any time give up the dockyard the property was to revert to the family. This was a natural provision enough, and when the dockyard was given up it did revert to the supposed representative of the family. It would appear however that the real lineal descendant of John Evelyn is a gentleman of the name of Wright, now residing in the United States. The claimant, Mr. Wright, is taking steps to obtain possession of the family estates of Walton Park, Surrey, and Sayer Court, Deptford.

Multa is once more in the throes of a sensational scandal. A lieutenant commanding one of the ships belonging to the Mediterranean Squadron brought with him to Valetta a lady who was supposed to be his newly-married bride. As a matter of course she was invited to the Palace, attended all the public balls, and was for a time a guest at the houses of two of the principal English officials in the island. During the temporary absence of her husband with his ship, the attentions paid her by a well-known local tradesman excited suspicion, an inquiry was set on foot, the marriage of the officer in question turned out to be a myth, and the lady was recognised as having at no very distant date moved in a very different sphere of society at Brighton. The explanations subsequently offered only made matters worse, and the whole business will shortly culminate in a naval court-martial.—*Vanity Fair.*

COURT AND FASHIONABLE NEWS.

WINDSOR CASTLE, SUNDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, The German Ambassador (Count Munster), Earl Granville, K.G., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Count Herbert von Bismarck (Councillor of the German Embassy) at the Castle yesterday afternoon. Her Majesty's dinner party included Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck, the Dowager Duchess of Roxburgh, Baroness Lobell, the Hon. Herbert Pitt, the Hon. Evelyn Moore, the German Ambassador, Earl Granville, K.G., Count Herbert Bismarck, Baron von Stockhausen, and Lieutenant-General the Right Hon. Sir H. Ponsonby, K.C.B. Princess Beatrice, Prince Leopold, and Princess Helen of Waldeck attended Divine service this morning in the private Chapel. The Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore, M.A., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, presided at the service. Her Majesty's visitors have left the Castle.

The Prince of Wales visited the Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont at Buckingham Palace on Saturday.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Madrid (Don Carlos) was last week elected an honorary member of the Junior Carlton Club.

The Earl of Wilton, although his general condition remained unchanged, passed a quiet night of Friday, and had some hours of refreshment during Saturday. Up to 10.45 on Sunday night no information had been received at Lord Wilton's house in Grosvenor-square as to his condition.

Viscount Lismore is still very seriously ill at Brighton. His lordship is suffering from a sharp attack of bronchitis.

A marriage is arranged between Mr. Edward Knight, only son of Mr. Knight, of Biltong House, Kent, and Miss Evans-Lombe,

youngest daughter of Mr. Evans-Lombe, of Bylaugh Park, Norfolk.

Mr. George Leeman, late M.P. for York, ex-chairman of the North-Eastern Railway, twice Lord Mayor of York, and the holder of several important public offices, died at Scarborough on Saturday afternoon.

VANITY FAIRINGS.

It is impossible for anybody with any heart at all to avoid feeling an affectionate sympathy with "Jumbo" in his trials. This most excellent and amiable elephant has lived with us for seventeen years; he has carried some of us upon his back when we were children, he has married here, and has always behaved himself in the most kindly and orderly manner; and yet, tempted by Barnum to miserable £2,000, the Council of the Zoological Society have had the humanity